FRIDAY
April 18, 2025

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'FCRA VIOLATION'

CBI searches AAP leader's residence

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'STRONGEST SIGNAL'

James Webb telescope detects 'sign of alien life'

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TRANSSHIPMENT WITHDRAWAL

India criticises trade actions of Bangladesh

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REMAKING U.S. ECONOMY

'Trumponomics' deserves to be taken seriously

World should adjust to Trump's 'mission'

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ALLROUND SHOW

Jacks stars in MI's easy win over SRH

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Lorry strike called off

BENGALURU
After almost three days of disruption to goods transportation, the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association has called off its indefinite strike following a third round of talks with Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday. » PAGE 8

As bike taxi ban looms, people turn to carpooling

BENGALURU
With Bengaluru preparing to implement a ban on bike taxis, carpooling is getting popular, among working professionals and students. » PAGE 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

No Waqf de-notification till next SC hearing, says Centre

No appointments will be made to Waqf bodies till the case comes up again, assures government; Centre gets 7 days to file response to challenges to the Act; top court fixes next hearing on May 5

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> The Act has certain positive things... At the same time we do not want the situation to change drastically that it affects a lot of people
>
> **SANJIV KHANNA**
> Chief Justice of India

> This involves a large number of innocent people's right to land and property... We will have to take you through the history of the legislation through a 100 years
>
> **TUSHAR MEHTA,** Solicitor-General of India

The Supreme Court on Thursday recorded a statement by the Union government that Waqfs, including Waqf-by-user, whether declared by way of notification or through registration, will neither be de-notified nor suffer any change in character until the next date of court hearing.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna further recorded in its order an assurance given by the Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, that until the next hearing no appointments would be made to the Central Waqf Council or the Waqf Boards of States or the National Capital Territory of Delhi under the amended Sections 9 and 14 of the principal Waqf Act 1995. These two provisions were amended through the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 to allow the inclusion of non-Muslims in these administrative bodies.

The Centre said any appointments, if made counter to the assurance, may be declared void by the court. The Bench fixed the next hearing on May 5 at 2 p.m.

Mr. Mehta successfully urged the court to grant him seven days to file a response covering the entire gamut of 100 years of legislation on the issue, and numerous representations received from across the country, which led to the framing of the provisions of the Act. Any interim order of stay of the Act directly or indirectly or even partly, at this preliminary stage, would not only be a rare measure but also a "serious and harsh step" taken by the court, Mr. Mehta said.

'Certain positives'

The CJI agreed that the situation regarding Waqfs had infirmities and the 2025 Act did have "certain positive things". "But at the same time, we do not want the situation to change drastically that it affects a lot of people," Chief Justice Khanna explained.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
'REFUSAL UNTENABLE'
» PAGE 15

Caste census: Further discussions on May 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The special meeting of the Cabinet that was convened on Thursday to discuss the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) report remained inconclusive, with further discussions slated for May 2.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said that the "discussion remained incomplete but cordial" and Ministers sought more details on population figures and backwardness to allow for a more elaborate discussion.

It is learnt that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told the Ministers that opinions of all will be heard and taken, and pointed out that the survey would be beneficial to all communities.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 5

Retain school staff till new recruitment, SC tells West Bengal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The order gives relief to staff protesting the cancellation of the 2016 recruitment drive. ANI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted relief for the West Bengal government by allowing the services of "specifically untainted" candidates in the State's government and aided schools to be retained till fresh recruitment process is completed by the end of 2025.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna said the extension of services has been allowed out of concern for students of Classes nine to 12.

The top court, in a judgment on April 3, had confirmed the en bloc cancellation of the entire 2016 recruitment process "due to the egregious violations and illegalities, which violated Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution". The judgment had affected nearly 24,000 teaching and non-teaching appointments in government and aided schools across the State.

The top court on Thursday directed the West Bengal government to initiate a fresh recruitment process for assistant teachers to Classes nine to 12 adding that the process should be completed by December 31, 2025.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

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Aided by Saka and a generous serving of Rice, Arsenal heralds a new generation

This was the coming of age for the North London side, played out in high definition with the world watching in awe; this will go down as the Gunners' greatest night in the Champions League yet

AP

Anirudh Velamuri

Two legs, two wins, and a place in the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League for the first time since 2009. Five goals scored, just one conceded and Real Madrid, European royalty, silenced.

This was the coming of age for Arsenal, played out in high definition with the world watching in awe.

Real has shown structural weaknesses throughout the season, but the irregular pressing and gaping holes in the midfield were masked by moments of individual brilliance from an array of stars: from Antonio Rudiger at the back to Kylian Mbappe up front via Jude Bellingham and Vinicius Junior.

But when Mikel Arteta's men came in all guns blazing, Real had no reply and was left second-guessing everything, even in its own backyard.

And yet, a week ago, this was expected to be a contest between mismatched teams, not on the pitch but in terms of experience. It was pipped as a contest between a group of players fighting against the odds for its first major trophy versus one where winning titles has become second nature.

In the end, one team played like it was in a pursuit of numbers while the other showed that the greater joy was in pursuing memories. And for Arteta, this is a legacy-minting exercise, the most striking chapter in his Arsenal genesis a little more than five years ago.

A domestic title here and there has barely held back fans' desire for Premier League and European glory. Arsenal came close several times, but it always remained the bridesmaid, never the bride.

While success in the league might have to wait another year, there could yet be unheralded joy at the continental level.

London's midfield maestro

In nine seasons as a professional footballer, across 338 matches for Arsenal and West Ham and 64 for England, Declan Rice had never found the back of the net from a free kick. Against Real at the Emirates, he broke the duck. And like a magician repeating a trick for good measure to a spellbound audience, he did it again 12 minutes later.

Rice had decided to defy Arsenal set-piece coach Nico Jover's calls for a cross because, even in the heat of the moment, he calculated all possibilities and figured out which move had the maximum xG. Or so he made it sound.

"Originally, we were gonna cross it, like reverse cross. It didn't make sense from that angle to cross the ball. And they were on a high line, to chip that it would have to be such a delicate pass. I just thought, go for it," he said after the first leg.

It wasn't a lucky strike or an ungodly deflection that did it, but calculated moves that saw the flight of the ball leave the indefatigable Thibaut Courtois looking clueless. It was rather fitting that the TV cameras immediately panned to former Real and Brazil great Roberto Carlos in the crowd, for such was the precision of Rice's twin strikes.

Rice 'cooked' twice. And it couldn't have been more filling. Despite the sublime free kicks, the 26-year-old's best attributes are in the midfield, where he hassles and hurries opponents out of possession and sets the pace for his team with his drive when on the ball.

In the cauldron that is the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, whose intimidating aura has blanked a plethora of world-class stars, Rice showed that he was a cut above the rest. He provided the shield that kept an increasingly desperate Real Madrid at bay.

The most telling moment of the contest, across both legs, came when the £105 million man left Mbappe, Los Blancos' crown jewel, in a heap on the floor, duly forcing his substitution. And as the Frenchman limped his way out, so did his team's hopes.

"It's such a special night for this club. A historic night. We want to win this competition," Rice confidently said after wrapping up the win in Madrid. In its current form, not many would bet against the north London side going all the way.

A tale of twos

Being handed the ball for a pressure penalty with his team's fortunes on the line? Bukayo Saka has been there before, as a 19-year-old whose missed spotkick saw Italy beat England to win the Euro 2020.

Four years later, he confidently picked up the ball again, this time hoping to put daylight between Arsenal and Real Madrid. He saw an audacious Panenka chip easily saved by Courtois, prompting the boisterous Spanish crowd to take up the decibel levels a few notches.

"I didn't want to die but maybe I wanted to slap him! He made that decision, he was bold enough to do it. I was more concerned about the emotional part, what it could do for us," Arteta later said, speaking of his emotions in the aftermath of that penalty miss.

On another day, this could have been the turning point of another famous Real Madrid comeback, on which ballads would have been written. But this wasn't regularly scheduled programming.

And Saka? He isn't the easily frustrated teenager anymore, but a perfectionist who leads by example. When skipper Martin Odegaard and Mikel Merino combined to release Saka into the box, he did the unthinkable – attempt another chip, this time beating Courtois and nestling the back of the net.

The Spaniards hoped for *la remontada* all week, and yet, the greatest comeback of all came from Saka. Or his left boot, to be precise. "We saw all the stuff that was going on social media, saying they were going to come back... but we've been able to show our mentality. We should be proud," the 23-year-old remarked after the win with a grin.

The future is now

Over the years, when Arsenal struggled to compete with the financial might of Manchester City or the ingenuity of Liverpool domestically, Saka offered fans the hope of a brighter future. The comprehensive win against Real Madrid has underlined that the future is now and it was well worth the wait.

"It's another massive step. The way we have done it, it's incredible," Arteta said after the game. His counterpart, Carlo Ancelotti, conceded that Real Madrid were second-best across both legs. "There are no excuses. In the two games, they were better than us. We did everything we could."

The most striking image from this contest will remain Saka silencing the Bernabeu crowd, 19 years after Thierry Henry did the same. Almost like tradition, a seminal moment whose details will be gleefully passed on from one generation to another. In the end, Arsenal's win was a triumph of system over individual power, of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. This resolute, street-smart and well-drilled team is, for the first time since the Invincibles, striking fear in its opponents.

This will go down as Arsenal's greatest night in the Champions League. For now.

THE NUMBERS

Arsenal has qualified for the semifinals for the third time in its history (2005-06, 2008-09). It's the 30th time an English team has progressed to this stage. Only Spanish sides (38) have done it more

The Gunners have won four in a row on the road only once before. The fourth game of that run was also a win over Real Madrid at the Bernabeu (1-0, Feb. 2006, round-of-16 first leg)

Real's last four eliminations have come against English teams: Manchester City (2019-20, 2022-23), Chelsea (2020-21) and Arsenal (2024-25)

Seven of Arsenal's last nine matches against Spanish outfits have ended in victories, the others being a draw and a defeat

Arteta's men have scored 30 goals this season, their most in a single edition of the competition

Action replay! Henry, Saka and the art of silencing the Bernabeu. GETTY IMAGES

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E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 07.05.2025

Last date of EMD : 06.05.2025

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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **07.04.2025 at 1. 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM, 2. 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM, 3. 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **06.05.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. Sri Sapthagiri Agro Rep by its Partner Mr. Sridhar Babu K S & Mrs. Vanitha Rani** Plot No. 3D & 133B I & II phase, KIADB Industrial Area, Antharasanahalli, Tumkur-572106 **2. Mrs. Vanitha Rani W /o Sridhar Babu K S 3. Mr. Sridhar Babu K S S /o Srinivas Shetty** Both 2 & 3 reside at, Sapthagiri Nilaya, 4th cross, Near Water Tank, Vidyanagar, Tumkur - 572101.	(i) Land situated at plot bearing No. 3-D, Sy. 21 & 23, measuring 50.80x136.40+ 132.7/2 meters totally measuring 6784 Sq.mtrs, situated at KIADB Industrial Area, 1st Phase, Antharasanahalli, Tumkur in the name of Sri Sapthagiri Agro Industry. (ii) Land of 2 acres situated at the Industrial land bearing plot No. 133-B, KIADB Industrial Area, Antharasanahalli, Tumkur-572106. In the name of Sri Sapthagiri Agro Industry. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.383357N Longitude- 77.099993E**	**Rs. 2,13,70,78,762.54** as on **16.04.2025** with further interest and cost there on	a) ₹ 1210.00 b) ₹ 121.00 c) ₹ 1.00	**02.05.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		Hypothecation of plant and machineries and Misc. Fixed Asset as such as Bunkers & Accessories, Electrical Equipment's. In the name of Sri Sapthagiri Agro Industry. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.383357N Longitude- 77.099993E**		a) ₹ 1179.00 b) ₹ 118.00 c) ₹ 1.00	
		TOTAL		2389.00	
2.	**1. M/S PADMAVATHI AGRO EXPORTS, Rep by its partners Mr. K K Naveen. Mr. T P Vikram Unit:** Opp State ware House, B H Road Tumkur -572 101 **Also at:** 5th Main, APMC Yard Batwadi, Tumkur- 572 106. **2. Mr K K Naveen S/o Mr K S Krishna Murthy,** 448, Pete Beedi, Chikkanayakanahalli, Tumkur District - 572 214. **3. Mr. T P Vikram S/o Mr Bhadrachala Setty** Venkateshapura, Sira Gate, Tumkur 572 101. **4. Mr. Sridhar Babu K.S. S/o Mr Srinivas Setty K S** No. 101, 4th Cross, Sapthagiri Nilaya Vidyanagara Tumkur -572101. **5. Mrs K S Vanitha Rani, W/o of Mr Sridhar Babu K S** No. 101, 4th Cross, Sapthagiri Nilaya Vidyanagara Tumkur -572101.	Residential House property bearing Khata No.8731/1538, 8731B/1538B, New Corporation Khatha No.1731*b/1538/2791 PID No.25144 at Vidyanagara, Near Water Tank, Tumkur in the name of Vanitha Rani K S W./o K S Sridhar Babu. Total Extent of the plot 1500 Sq.ft **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.337000 Longitude- 77.124556**	**Rs. 56,91,67,584.36** as on **16.04.2025** with further interest and cost there on	a) ₹ 118.58 b) ₹ 11.86 c) ₹ 1.00	**02.05.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		Industrial Land site No.113-A-P3 in Sy.No.63 at Antharasanahalli Industrial Area, 2nd phase Thimlapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Tumkur in the name of M/s Sapthagiri Agro Industry. In the name of MS Padmavathi. Total Extent of the plot 32172 Sq.ft **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.383361 Longitude- 77.100000**		a) ₹ 194.03 b) ₹ 19.40 c) ₹ 1.00	
		TOTAL		312.61	
3.	**1. M/S BHARANI HI TECH AGRO INDUSTRIES** No 1136, 2nd main, 2nd Block, BEL Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru,Karnataka,560097. **2. Mr Anand L** No 1136, 2nd main, 2nd Block, BEL Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru,Karnataka,560097. **3. Mr. Harsha Anand** No 1136, 2nd main, 2nd Block, BEL Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru,Karnataka,560097. **4.Smt Chitra Anand** No 1136, 2nd main, 2nd Block, BEL Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru,Karnataka,560097. **5. Mr. Vijay Anand** No 1136, 2nd main, 2nd Block, BEL Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru,Karnataka,560097.	**1.** Land with Poultry sheds and connected structures situated in: Sy.No.309/1 area 4 acre 20 guntas Gangasandra Vilalge, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. Bounded **North by:** Property of Gangireddy, **South by:** Property of Krishnappa, **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property of K H Ramakrishnappa. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 13.576574 Longitude- 77.560258**	**Rs. 9,39,56,609.08** as on **16.04.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon	a) ₹ 603.00 b) ₹ 60.30 c) ₹ 1.00	**02.05.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		2. Flat No.313, 3rd Floor, Sri Krishna Enclave in land bearing converted Sy. No.111/1, present BBMP Khata No.406, Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East. Total Plinth area is 1523 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.59422N Longitude- 77.43084E**		a) ₹ 70.00 b) ₹ 7.00 c) ₹ 1.00	
		3. Flat No.203, 2nd Floor, Sri Krishna sai Enclave in land bearing converted Sy. No.111/1, present BBMP Khata No.406, Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East. Total plinth area is 1241 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.59422N Longitude- 77.43084E**		a) ₹ 58.30 b) ₹ 5.83 c) ₹ 1.00	
		4. Flat No.308, 3rd Floor, Sri Krishna sai Enclave in land bearing converted Sy. No.111/1, present BBMP Khata No.406, Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East. Total plinth area is 1241 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.59422N Longitude- 77.43084E**		a) ₹ 58.30 b) ₹ 5.83 c) ₹ 1.00	
		5. Flat No.311, 3rd Floor, Sri Krishna sai Enclave in land bearing converted Sy. No.111/1, present BBMP Khata No.406, Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East. Total plinth area is 1250 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.59422N Longitude- 77.43084E**		a) ₹ 58.73 b) ₹ 5.88 c) ₹ 1.00	
		6. Flat No.111, 1st Floor, Sri Krishna sai Enclave in land bearing converted Sy. No.111/1, present BBMP Khata No.406, Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East. Total plinth area is 1250 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.59422N Longitude- 77.43084E**		a) ₹ 58.73 b) ₹ 5.88 c) ₹ 1.00	
		TOTAL		907.06	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 17.04.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

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For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Tele-communication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:

Item No.	Name of the work
1.	Provision of signaling arrangements at Arni and Thimri (Both Indoor and Outdoor) in connection with construction of NEW BG line between Tindivanam - Nagari section in Chennai Division. **Cash value in Rs.189415222.41, Bid Security (EMD) Rs.1097100, Last date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site: 02.05.2025, Cost of Tender Document Rs. Nil, Period of completion in Month(s): Ten (10)**

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** of Indian Railways.

The supply/work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Construction, Tambaram, Chennai - 600 045.

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, TUMAKURU
Office of Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri

Tender notification no:01/2025-26 **Dated:16-04-2025**

Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender for Various works under Various Head of accounts of **P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri** have been published in e portal. Registered and Eligible contractors may submit the bids within **30-04-2025 upto 16.00 PM** through e procurement website. For more details Contact **Ph. 080-25501216, 080- 25501227** or visit **http:/www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/RO-01/25-26/Oysters

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ದೊಡ್ಡಕೆರೆ ಮೈದಾನ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570010.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ (ಕಛೇರಿ): 0821–2523626, ಇಮೇಲ್: exhibitionauthority@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **ಕವಪ್ರಾ/ಮುಕಾನಿ/2024–25** ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.04.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ "ಇ" ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.84,71,324=84/–(18% ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 02.05.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸದರಿ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಸಿವಿಲ್), ರವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9900568915/7892920878**
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : **exhibitionauthority@gmail.com**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/65/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase **Site bearing No.513,** presently bearing BBMP E Aasthi Property No.513, (E.P.I.D: 9210629339) measuring East to West 57 feet and North to South 40 feet **totally measuring 2280 square feet** along with building measuring 2173 square feet of built up area, situated at **HAL II-Stage, Bangalore** and bounded on;

East by : Site No.524;
West by : Road;
North by : Site No.512;
South by : Site No.514.

From its Owners **Mr. Manohar Somashekaraiah, Mrs. S. Pushpalatha, Mr. Anil Kumar S.**

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the undersigned.

Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor, 100 feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RDW&S DEPARTMENT
Court Road, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Office And EE : 08226-226054, E-mail : eerdwsd.chn2014@gmail.com

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 01/2025-26, Dated : 16-04-2025

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Dept, Chamarajanagara Division, **Chamarajanagar** Invites from eligible General Category Contractors for **2025-26 SBM Scheme Construction of 3 KLD FSTP For Kulagana Gp in Chamarajanagara Taluk, Chamarajanagar District Estimated Cost : 85.79 Lakhs** The eligible Class-III Above for General Category Civil Contractors in Chamarajanagar Dist are required to submit through **kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Date and Time of Publication of Tender 16-04-2025 at 17.00 Hrs, Last date of Submission of bids 25-04-2025 at 17.30 Hrs, Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids 28-04-2025 at 11.00 Hrs, Tenders are invited through Kppp Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW & S Department,
Chamarajanagara Division
Chamarajanagara

DIPR : CHANAGAR:21:2025-26

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E -TENDER NOTICE

DRM / TRD, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **(1) Tender No.: 04-TRD-JU-ETENDER-25-26. Name of Work**: Outsourcing of maintenance of OHE & PSI assets under JSM OHE cum PSI depot over Jodhpur Division for a period of two years. **Approx. Cost of the work**: ₹ 2,06,73,208.60. **(2) Tender No.: 05-TRD-JU-ETENDER-25-26. Name of Work**: Outsourcing of maintenance of PSI assets under BANE, PMY, SMR & BME OHE PSI depot over Jodhpur Division for a period of two years. **Approx. Cost of the work**: ₹ 1,58,95,174/-.Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website **http://www.ireps.gov.in Date & time of closing of e-tender**: 09.05.2025 up to 15:00 hrs. **Date & time of opening of e-tender**: After 15:00 hrs. on 09.05.2025. For detailed information visit **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

439-AR/25

Follow us on : /NWRailways /NWRailways_

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

CPM, Gati Shakti, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms/Contractor for the following work. **E-Tender Notice No:01-2025-GSU-Civil, Date: 15.04.2025. Name of work: (A)** Provision of Ramp to FOB for Divyangjan at Akkalkot Road station under Amrit Station Scheme over Solapur division. **(B)** Provision of lift at Akkalkot Road station under Amrit Station Scheme over Solapur division. **(C)** Provision of parcel and goods shed related facilities at (I) **Solapur:** Provision of CGS Office & parcel office (II) **Kalburgi:** Provision of parcel office. (III) **Kurduwadi:** Provision of Hamal room and CGS office. (iv) **Wadi:** Provision of Parcel office & store room. (v) **Pandharpur:** Provision of Hamal Room. **(D)** Wadi- Resurfacing of PF 1/2 and 3/4 of Wadi station and other improvement works . **Approximate cost of work:** Rs. 21,31,91,771.00. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 12,16,000.00. **Completion period of the work:** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Maintenance Period:** 6 months or one monsoon whichever is later. **Last Date and time for submission for tender on 09.05.2025** up to **15.00** hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender on 09.05.2025** after **15.30** hrs. **Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in Note:** The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change/corrigendum issued for this tender website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Project Manager (GSU), Central Railway, Solapur.

Akar/Sur- 40

Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

THE HINDU GROUP
SPORTSTAR
DAY 28
INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE
Play now & start winning!

1. Which phrase is commonly used in golf to describe an unpredictable or accidental deflection that can impact play?
2. Which golf tournament, first held in 1927, is a biennial team event contested between the USA and Europe?
3. Who was the inaugural winner of the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award in 2000 and also claimed the honour again in 2001?

*T&C apply

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: Shane Warne

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Paras Mahalik, Rourkela | 2. Amrutha Varshini.M.K, Mysuru | 3. Antara Mji, Gangtok

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank. Across India.

Asset Recovery Management Branch,
1st Floor, FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/22955929(AGM)
E-Mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website: https://karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

PUBLIC E-AUCTION
NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ON 30.05.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is"and "As is what is" basis on 30.05.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **29.05.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/ Co-Obligants and Loan Account No.	Balance O/S Rs. Future Interest From + Costs	Possession Date Possession Type	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Auction Time	Incremental Value of the Bid	Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code
1	**(1) Mrs. Jonna Amrutham** W/o Mr. Bhaskar Naidu J **(2) Mrs. Chandra Gopi Krishna** W/o Mr. Gopi Krishna **(3) Mrs. Mohita** W/o Mr. Suresha B **(4) Mrs. Jhansi B** W/o Mr. Ashok K **(5) Mr. Ashok K** S/o Mr. Nagarathnam All are addressed at: No.362/1, 8th Cross, RMV 2nd Stage, 2nd Block, AECS Layout, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru-560004. **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) PSOD A/c No. 0557000600021601 (2) PSTL A/c No.0557001800043901 (3) PSTL A/c No.0557001800047901**	**Total Rs.4,27,95,426.53 [Rupees Four Crore Twenty Seven Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Six and Paisa Fifty Three Only] [(1) Rs.3,41,15,970.29 01.04.2025 + (2) Rs. 4,51,589.78 11.04.2025 + (3) Rs.82,27,866.46 11.04.2025]**	**12.02.2025 Constructive**	All that part and parcel of residential property measuring 2325 sq ft together with building constructed thereon bearing Site No.3/362, Khatha No.178-A, New Municipal No.44/13, PID No.100-183-10, BBMP Ward No.100, situated at 8th Cross, Geddalahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560094 belonging to **Mrs. Jonna Amrutham. Boundaries of property as per Document & Actual: East by:** Remaining portion of House List No.3/362; **West by:** 40 feet Road; **North by:** N S Mani's Property / Vacant site; **South by:** Property No.363;	**Rs.4,81,00,000/- (Rupees Four Crore and Eighty One Lakh Only)**	**Rs.48,10,000/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Only)**	**10.30 AM to 10.45 AM**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru-Malleshwaram A/c No. 0553500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000055**

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).
(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule 8/Sub Rule (1) of Rule 9 of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors).
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. **https://karnatakabank.com under the head "Auction Notice".**
The E-auction will be conducted through portal www.auctionbazaar.com on **30.05.2025** at above mentioned time with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **www.auctionbazaar.com** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **29.05.2025**) from **M/s ARCA EMART PVT LTD** (Known by their **website: www.auctionbazaar.com**) Auction Bazaar, 7-1-28/1/A/1, Park Avenue 1, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Telangana, India – 500016, **Contact No. :** 7799728999, E-mail : **contact@auctionbazaar.com and disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 15.04.2025

Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer, Karnataka Bank Ltd.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

शुद्धिपत्र /सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या– BCD/EE/ HAZARIBAG/ 77 /2024-25 ,PR संख्या– 349525 Building (24-25).D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा कार्य का नाम– Proposed Construction Of 50 Bedded Hostel for Madarsa Hussania Education and Welfare Trust at Block - Katkamsandi, Vill- Pelawal, Hazaribagh For The Year 2024-2025 को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द की जाती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
भवन प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

PR 350580 Building (25-26)_D

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre
जवाहरलाल नेहरु एल्युमिनियम अनुसंधान विकास एवं अभिकल्प केन्द्र
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India)
Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur - 440 023
www.jnarddc.gov.in (07104-220701)

EoI आमंत्रण सूचना/Notice Inviting EoI

JNARDDC, Nagpur, invites EoI from reputed firms for commercialization of Technology / Know-How developed by JNARDDC. **जेएनएआरडीडीसी, नागपुर, निम्नलिखित सेवा के लिए प्रतिष्ठित फर्मों से EoI आमंत्रित करता है।**

EoI No.	Description of Service	Last date of tender submission (upto 1600 Hrs.)	Date of opening (1500 Hrs.)
02 Dt. 17.04.25	Expression of Interest (EoI) for commercialization of Technology / Know-How	07.05.2025	08.05.2025

The details are available on centre's website: **www.jnarddc.gov.in.**

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

As bike taxi ban looms, city commuters turn to carpooling

Recently, High Court ordered app-based service providers like Rapido to stop offering bike taxi services withing six weeks

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

With Bengaluru preparing to implement a ban on bike taxis following a recent High Court directive, commuters in the city are being forced to rethink their daily travel choices. Among the emerging alternatives, carpooling is rapidly gaining popularity, especially among working professionals and students seeking affordable and reliable options.

The shift comes after the Karnataka High Court on April 2 ordered app-based transport providers like Rapido, Ola, and Uber to stop offering bike taxi services within six weeks.

For thousands of daily commuters, bike taxis have been a low-cost, time-saving solution in the traffic-congested city. "Bike taxis were often the cheapest alternative after BMTC buses and the metro. With their recent fare hikes, we're running out of budget-friendly choices," said Pavithra G., a daily commuter from Jayanagar.

For thousands of daily commuters, bike taxis have been a low-cost, time-saving solution in the traffic-congested city. FILE PHOTO

Public transport costs have surged in recent months, compounding the challenges for daily travellers. From April 1, the State government increased the sales tax on diesel, pushing fuel prices up by ₹2 per litre. Around the same time, metro fares jumped by as much as 71%, and BMTC bus fares saw a 15% hike. This trifecta of rising costs has left commuters scrambling for alternatives that won't burn a hole in their pockets.

Viable and sustainable

In this context, carpooling has emerged as a viable and sustainable option. Several carpooling platforms are witnessing increased user interest. QuickRide, one of the more established platforms, is catering specifically to intra-city commuters heading to office districts. Other apps like GoPool and QuicReach are operating using yellowboard commercial vehicles to connect passengers on similar routes.

The legality of carpooling in Bengaluru had previously raised questions, but the Karnataka government in 2023 clarified that such services are permitted as long as they are not profit-driven. While the transport department had

Legality of carpooling in the city had previously raised questions, but the State govt. in 2023 clarified that such services are permitted as long as they are not profit-driven

announced its intention to frame a dedicated carpooling policy, the official guidelines are still awaited.

For many in the city, carpooling is not just an economical choice but a necessity in the current situation. "I started carpooling last month through QuickRide, and my office is in Whitefield, and I live in Jayanagar. A regular cab costs at least ₹500 one way, which is not sustainable. With carpooling, I share the ride with three others and end up paying around ₹120. It's also a great way to make new friends and unwind during the long commute," said Rohit Murthy, a software engineer.

Others are planning to make the switch soon. "I have been relying on bike taxis for the last two years because they were fast and cheap, especially for last-mile connectivity from the metro. But with the ban and the fare hikes, I'm seriously considering carpooling. I have already signed up on a carpooling platform and plan to try it out from next week. If it works well, I might even delete the ride-hailing apps altogether," said Ranjitha M., a marketing executive who travels from Vijayanagar to Manyata Tech Park.

Transport analyst and traffic expert M.N. Srihari said carpooling could play a pivotal role in solving multiple urban transport challenges. "The government must step in with a clear, supportive policy to promote carpooling. It's not just about affordability – carpooling helps reduce the number of vehicles on the road, cuts emissions, brings down fuel consumption, and even fosters social interaction. As commuting becomes more expensive, more citizens will naturally gravitate toward carpooling if it's made safer and more structured," he noted.

State stands fourth in the country in organ pledging; 35,920 registrations so far

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Karnataka stands fourth in terms of organ pledging in the country, according to data from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

As of April 17, while Karnataka has registered 35,920 pledges so far, Maharashtra has the highest with 50,886 registrations. Rajasthan and Gujarat follow with 43,376 and 36,550 registrations.

Among districts, Dharwad has recorded the highest number of pledges with 8,196 registrations so far. Dharwad is followed by Ballari (8,095). These two districts have recorded the second and third highest pledges in the country after Ahmedabad, which has recorded the highest at 29,763 pledges.

Youth tops

The highest pledging has been recorded in the age group of 30-45 years with 16,045 persons in this age group pledging their organs. This is followed by those in the age group of 18-30 years with 8,423 registrations.

Women have outnumbered men in organ pledging, with 18,655 of the total 35,920 registrations being by women, according to data.

QR code

To pledge for organ donation in Karnataka, people can use the NOTTO QR code, which is linked to the State health department's initiative to simplify the process.

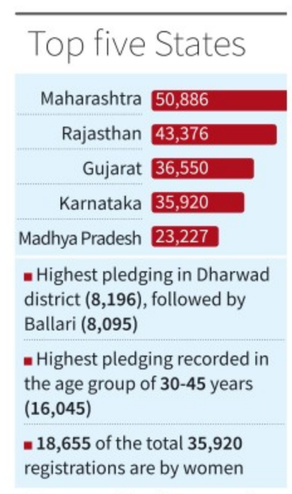
This QR code that was launched in 2023 can be found on the websites of NOTTO or Jeevasarthakathe, the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO), the nodal agency that facilitates cadaver organ donations.

Rajani M., State Joint Director (Medical), said organ pledging increased after the introduction of the QR code and a campaign launched by the Union Health Ministry last year to encourage pledging.

"People can use the QR code reader on their smartphones or other devices to scan the code and fill out the pledge form. Upon successful pledge registration, the person will receive a donor card with a unique registration number. We are working with all hospitals to encourage pledging," she said.

Ms. Rajani further said that QR codes and online pledge options make the process of pledging easier and more accessible.

According to data, women outnumbered men in organ pledging, with 18,655 of the total 35,920 registrations made by women.
SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT


Top five States
Maharashtra 50,886
Rajasthan 43,376
Gujarat 36,550
Karnataka 35,920
Madhya Pradesh 23,227
Highest pledging in Dharwad district (8,196), followed by Ballari (8,095)
Highest pledging recorded in the age group of 30-45 years (16,045)
18,655 of the total 35,920 registrations are by women
Source: National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation

Less than 5% turn into donations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Although the number of people pledging organs is on the rise, not even 5% of them actually turn into donors.

Naushad Pasha, Chief Transplant Coordinator at Jeevasarthakathe/SOTTO, said that of the total 1,155 organ donations in Karnataka so far (from 2007), not more than 15 donations are by those who have pledged organs.

Reasons

Elaborating on the reasons, he said sometimes, the identified donor is not fit to donate due to clinical reasons. "Or, someone from the donor family/distant family/friends circle says no to organ donation and the next of kin do not have much say in taking a decision against the wish of those opposing it. Also, most of the time the family is not aware of the organ pledging done by the person," Mr Pasha said, adding that it is important for people to keep their families in the loop while pledging organs.

Organ donations

When this year is taken into account, Karnataka has seen 63 organ donations till April 17. It has been recording over 150 donations for the last three consecutive years annually. This year, so far, while Tamil Nadu has recorded the highest donations at 74, Telangana has 64 donations.

Lorry driver, metro work contractor booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Yelahanka Traffic Police have booked a case against the lorry driver, manager of the company Nagarjuna Construction Company Ltd, which holds the contract and carries out the work, for causing death due to negligence a day after an autorickshaw driver was killed in an accident when a girder for Namma Metro construction being transported on a lorry fell over him,

An autorickshaw driver was killed after a girder for Namma Metro being transported on a lorry fell over him on Wednesday

The police said preliminary investigation revealed that the lorry driver applied sudden brakes to take a U-turn, and this caused a jerk, which led to the concrete beam to slip and fall on the auto rickshaw riding next to it, killing the driver on the spot.

Based on the complaint filed by Syed Khader, nephew of the deceased, the police have charged the accused under the Indian Motor Vehicle Act and also under sections 106 (causing death due to negligence), 281 (rash driving) and 289 (negligent conduct) of Baratiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023.

The driver was arrested and the lorry was seized for further investigations.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Central BJP MP P. C. Mohan on Thursday wrote to the Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), demanding that both the contractor and officer be held accountable and conduct an immediate safety audit and disclose safety spending by BMRCL.

'No supervision'

In his letter, Mr. Mohan said, "It is evident that safety measures mandated under the contract are not being followed. There is no supervision on vehicular movement, barricading is inadequate or absent, and structural elements are not properly secured or monitored."

"Despite prior incidents resulting in loss of innocent lives, BMRCL has failed to initiate any stringent punitive action against the defaulting contractors, nor has it taken visible steps to rectify systemic lapses. This indifference amounts to tacit approval of unsafe practices," it further stated.

ED visits man who claimed to have imported ₹50-crore dog

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday visited the house of a man here to conduct a potential search for violation of foreign exchange rules after he claimed to have imported a ₹50 crore dog.

The assertion, however, was found to be fake.

Sources told PTI that the officials of the federal probe agency found that the man "had no means" to purchase such a costly canine, and such reports were "just created" for possible social media engagement.

The man, according to reports, had claimed that he had imported the "world's most expensive" dog – a cross-breed of a Caucasian Shepherd and Wolf. The claim gained prominence on social media, inviting the ED's glare.

Officials of the federal probe agency, acting on this open-source information, reached his home to verify the claims, only to find that they were fake.

The dog, whose pictures were also circulated widely on social media, was owned by his neighbour and was not worth "even a lakh (of rupees)", they said.

No probe initiated

The agency has not initiated any probe under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the sources said.

BTP allows visitor parking next to old KGID building in Cubbon Park

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) on Thursday announced that visitors to Cubbon Park can park their vehicles in the parking area next to the old KGID building on Sundays and non-working Saturdays of High Court.

Users will have to pay the parking charge here as per the existing rates of other parking areas inside Cubbon Park. The facility will be available from 6 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Regular visitors of Cubbon Park said that this was necessary. "There has been an increase in the number of people visiting Cubbon Park in the recent months. Hence this designated parking area will help," said a member of the Cubbon Park Conservation Committee.

Follow due diligence while carrying out arrest procedure: DG&IG

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a recent Supreme Court order pointing out police officials' lapses while arresting suspects and accused, the State police chief has directed police officials to issue arrest memos to the accused and follow due diligence while carrying out the arrest procedure.

In a circular issued on Wednesday, Alok Mohan, Director General and Inspector General of Police, Karnataka State Police, warned of disciplinary action in case of any lapses on the part of police officials, which could be the reason for the court concerned to grant bail to the accused.

Mr. Alok Mohan directed the police to issue an arrest memo compulsorily and write down the reason for the arrest. Recently, there have been several instances where police officials have been accused of illegal detention and later showing arrest, which ended up helping the accused secure bail.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2025-26-OT-02 (Through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Electrical arrangements for- [1] Extension of FOB at Bidadi (BID) station with extension of booking office, [2] Construction of Type-II quarters (8 units) at BWT Station [3] Provision of covered shelter & granite flooring at open area between PF 7&8 at Bengaluru station [4] Up gradation of general infrastructure at DSD/SBC proposed improvements to roofing, construction of strong rooms at DSD/SBC [5] Proposal for Extension of Rd-6 to 580 mtr duly slewing RD5 and modification in goods circulating area in Dodballapur station [6] Proposed construction of officers Rest House (ORH) at Dharmapuri station [7] Proposed construction of SSE/P.Way stores at Kunigal & Channarayapatna [8] Construction of left over civil works between Bengaluru-Hassan section [9] Interlocking of LC-20 between Yelhanka - Rajankunti in Bengaluru Division	Rs. 81,67,849/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/37/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Jharkhand Ranchi -834002
Letter No. - 563 **Corrigendum Notice** Date- 17-04-2025

Reference to Tender Ref. No.-Kha.Up.Ni.-24(Chi.Vi.Yo.)-04/2024-Re-448 Dated:-24/03/2025, PR NO. 349157 for Supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As per FSSAI Norms) for 4th Quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) of Financial Year 2024-25 through reverse e-auction platform of NCDEX e Markets Limited".
Bid End Date/Time Amended as follows:-

Description	As per RFP	Amended As
Bidding Document Cost Date :	16-04-2025	24-04-2025
Tender Document Sales End Date :	16-04-2025	24-04-2025
Bid Submission Closing Date :	16-04-2025	24-04-2025

However, the prospective bidder are advised to regularly keep visiting and checking the website http://jharkhand.gov.in/food **& https://www.neml.in** for any further forthcoming information/ notice(s) / developments / amendment(s) / Clarification(s) regarding the subject Tender. Rest all the Terms and Conditions of the RFP and subsequent amendment remains unchanged.
Sd/-
PR 350579 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(25-26)#D **(Dilip Tirkey), Director**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 565/ATVM Facilitator/04/2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications from **Retired Railway Employees / General Public** of Bengaluru Division for Engagement as ATVM facilitator at the following Railway Station over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through ATVM Machine on recharge bonus basis for the period upto 31-03-2026 or till the receipt of new policy guidelines whichever is earlier :

Sl. No	Station	Station Category	No. of Vacancy	Sl. No	Station	Station Category	No. of Vacancy
1	KSR Bengaluru City	NSG-1	12	12	Ramanagaram	NSG-4	02
2	Bengaluru Cantonment	NSG-3	05	13	Kuppam	NSG-5	02
3	Yesvanthpur	NSG-2	04	14	Sir M. Vishweshwaraya Bengaluru	NSG-2	06
4	Tumakuru	NSG-4	03	15	Bangarpet	NSG-3	02
5	Krishnarajapuram	NSG-3	06	16	Maddur	NSG-5	02
6	Kengeri	NSG-3	01	17	Chikkabavar	NSG-5	01
7	Mandya	NSG-4	01	18	Bengaluru East	NSG-5	03
8	Channapatna	NSG-5	06	19	Dharmapuri	NSG-5	01
9	Hosur	NSG-4	06	20	Whitefield	NSG-4	03
10	Hindupur	NSG-4	05	21	Yelahanka	NSG-3	03
11	Malur	NSG-5	02			TOTAL	76

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs. of 16-05-2025.
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
PUB/35/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E- TENDER NOTICE No. 08/MYS/2025 of 09-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of work	Approx Value
1	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone A Mysuru Heritage Station and Divisional Office.	Rs. 1,60,00,000/-
2	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone A-1 Mysuru Railway Colonies and Hospitals.	Rs. 3,50,00,000/-
3	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone A-3 AP Colonies.	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
4	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone A-2 Mysuru (Incl) - Chamarajanagar section, Zone A-4 Mysuru (Excl) to Yeliyur (Excl) section and A-5 Mysuru (Excl) - Hole Narsipur (Excl.).	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-
5	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone A-6 Hassan (Excl) to Padil (Excl) and A-7 Sakaleshpur - Subramanya Road section.	Rs. 3,00,00,000/-
6	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone B-1 Birur (Excl) - Talguppa and Kadur (Excl) to Chikkamagalur section under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Shivamogga Town.	Rs. 2,50,00,000/-
7	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone B-2 Hole Narsipur (Incl) to Arsikere (Excl) and Sampige Road (Excl) to Birur (Incl) section under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Arsikere.	Rs. 2,50,00,000/-
8	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone B-4 Birur (Excl) to Chickjajur (Incl) and B-7 Chickjajur to Rayadurga (Excl)	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-
9	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 for Zone B-5 Chickjajur (Excl) to Karjagi (Excl) and B-6 Kottur (Excl) to Amaravathi section	Rs. 3,00,00,000/-
10	**Sub Work -I**: Collection of Hydro metrological Data for Bridge No. 597 (4x45.72 + 8x 24.40m Girder-Netravati Bridge) at Km. 163/300-700 on Hassan-Mangaluru Junction Section, Bridge No. 28 (3x 18.30m Girder-Yagachi) at Km. 9/800-10/000 on Hassan-Mangaluru Junction section. **Sub Work -II**: Collection of Hydro metrological Data for Bridge No. 706A (1x45.72m GB-Lokapavani) at Km. 114/100-200 on Bengaluru-Mysuru Section. **Sub Work -III**: Collection of Hydro metrological Data for Bridge No. 90 (16x19.30+2x6.10m Deck Girder Tungabhadra) at Km. 339/9-17 on Harihar-Hubballi Section.(For the period of 4 months From 15.06.2025 to 15.10.2025)	Rs. 45,14,271/-
11	Replacement of corroded top flange plate, corroded members, corroded chequared plate at Br.No.260 (1x12.20m+2x18.30m Plate girder), Br.No.261 (3x18.30m Plate girder), Br.No.292 (2x18.30m plate girder) Br.No.306 (1x18.30m Plate girder), Br.No.309 (1x12.20m+2x18.30m), Br.No.322 (1x9.15m), Br.No.593 (3x12.19m), Br.No.597 (4x45.72m+8x24.40m) and replacement of corroded rivtes in Hassan-Mangaluru Junction Section (including Sakleshpur Subrahmanya Road ghat Section) in SSE/Bridges/Sakleshpur jurisdiction.	Rs. 1,11,20,446/-
12	Holenarasipur-Arsikere Section: Proposed Construction of RUB at Km 102/975 between Mavinakere-Hassan stations	Rs. 3,35,80,607/-
13	Birur -Talguppa Section: Provision of CC Road at LC No. 38A at Km 53/339 to closed LC No. 39 at Km 53/740 between Bhadravati-Shivamogga Town stations	Rs. 46,30,829/-
14	Improvements to Kitchen, Toilet/Bath, Arresting of roof leakage and replacement of Old Doors and Windows in Type-II Quarters (46 Units) at Tarikere - 02 Nos, Bhadravati - 10 Nos and Shivamogga Town - 34 Nos in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Shivamogga Town Sub-Division. Shivamogga Town (69/A-B, 70/A-B, 71/A-B, 72/A-B, 74/AB-CD, 75/AB-CD,91/A-D,97,102/A-B,103/A-B,104/A-B, 106/CD, 107/AB, 108/AB, 108/CD,117/A-B,118/A-B,119A-B, 125AB) Bhadravati (40/A-B, 42/A-B, 44/A-B, 45/A-B,47/A-B) Tarikere (23/A-B)	Rs. 1,91,10,805/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 01-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/42/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Making primary health care visible, accessible and affordable

Modern public health challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, chronic diseases, and mental health issues highlight the urgent need for a public health system that sees health as more than the absence of disease, factoring in interactions between the environment, socio-economic factors and health-seeking behaviour

Irfan Shakeer
Janane S.

Change is inevitable and is health any exception to that? The nature of public health has changed globally in conjunction with the ever-expanding economy and modern lifestyles. A few modern public health challenges include antimicrobial resistance, chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), zoonotic diseases, and mental health illnesses. NCDs continue to account for more than 60% of global deaths and are estimated to increase by 17% in the next decade. These challenges are complex, multifaceted and require a new public health system that comprehensively understands health, one that extends beyond the absence of diseases. This new system needs to see public health as a product of ongoing interactions between the environment, socio-economic determinants, and people's health-seeking behaviour.

The Government of India introduced the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme in its 2018 Budget as an ambitious project to transform and strengthen India's public health system, including through public funding for the healthcare of disadvantaged groups. This nationally-funded scheme incorporates three major components: Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) and Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

PM-JAY, being the largest publicly funded health insurance, provides financial coverage of ₹5 lakh to BPL cardholders and senior citizens. On the other hand, AAM aims to transform and strengthen primary health care through its Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) holistically. The delivery of public health services through these centers is anchored around the concept of continuous comprehensive (preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative) care. This brings services related to non-communicable diseases (hypertension, diabetes and high priority cancers), ENT, mental health, oral health, geriatric and palliative care, health promotion and wellness activities closer to the general community. The PM-ABHIM component was launched in 2021 to equip India's comprehensive care system with required health infrastructure to deliver and maintain high quality services within the country.

Public-funded programmes like these are designed to improve survival and well-being, while safeguarding the community from catastrophic healthcare expenditure (CHO). The World Health Organization defines CHO as 'out-of-pocket payments greater than 40% of the capacity to pay for health care.'

As per the latest report from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as of November 2024, a total of 1,75,338 AAMs have been established and operationalised with a footfall of 350 crore consultations. If we closely examine the National Health Accounts report 2021-2022, we can see how the Health Ministry has marginally increased healthcare expenditure in recent years. The report also shows a decreasing trend of per capita out-of-pocket health expenditure (OOPHE) in the country. Along with dedicated budgets from respective States, the Central government additionally complements a State's public health infrastructure through schemes like the National Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat.

For a better tomorrow: A closer look at the National Health Accounts 2021–2022 reveals that the Health Ministry has only marginally increased healthcare spending in recent years. FILE PHOTO

Visibility of public health system

In India, however, there exist a few blind spots in the public health system such as user experience, and people's trust and confidence in the system. People's 'trust' in public health or healthcare has always been ambiguous; however, this has been linked with many health outcomes such as health-seeking behaviour, healthcare utilisation and continuity of care and self-satisfaction.

'Trust in healthcare' is defined as 'an optimistic acceptance of a helpless situation where the trustee (patients) believes that the trustor (doctors) will care for their concern or interest' . Many lower- and middle-income nations, including India, still struggle to foster people's trust in their public health systems.

Every country's public health system plays a crucial role in health service delivery and trust brings people closer to the publicly-funded system and safeguards the community against catastrophic health expenditure from the private sector. The private healthcare sector in India still holds a lion's share of health spending.

People often turn to the private sector for consistent care, timely access, and clean infrastructure. India has a respectable public health system that has gradually improved over time, especially at the primary level. Publicly funded sub-centers, primary health centers, and community health centers have been established at the primary level to address the public health needs of the populace, both in urban and rural areas. Each of these institutions provides healthcare services in accordance with their designated catchment areas.

While Ayushman Bharat and the National Health Mission (Urban and Rural) aim to strengthen public health accessibility and infrastructure, the Indian government also introduced the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) to raise public health facilities to global standards. These standards are based on The International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua), and have been developed to improve quality in eight areas of concern: service, patient rights, inputs, support services, clinical care, infection control, quality management and outcomes.

India's SDG (sustainable development goals) 2030 commitments call for a high-quality public health system.

Way forward

According to The Lancet Global Health Commission on High Quality Health Systems, a high-performing health system is not always indicated by the mere existence of basic infrastructure (such as human resources, medications, running water, power, etc.). The commission further defines a high-quality health system as "one that optimises health care in a given context by consistently delivering care that improves or maintains health outcomes, by being valued and trusted by all people, and by responding to changing population needs."

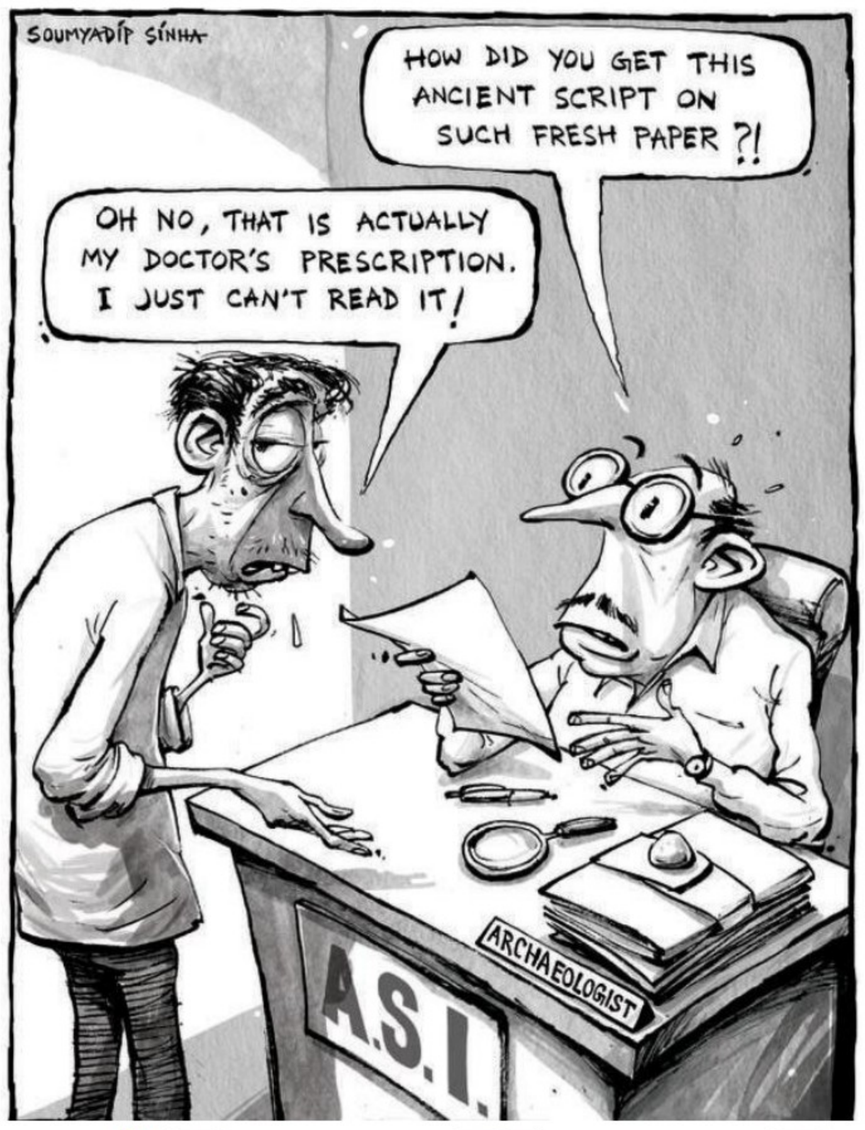
The Indian Public Health Standards were released in 2007, prescribing only the most basic standards for our publicly-funded healthcare facilities, but it's time to assign top priority to NQAS, which guarantees healthcare that meets international standards. Even though the system produces measurable data about service management and utilisation, it misses a few parameters that people care about. By capturing user experience and making the findings publicly available, we can potentially increase people's trust and confidence in our public health system.

(Irfan Shakeer is an epidemiologist based in Bengaluru and Dr. Janane S. is an epidemiologist based in Hyderabad. irfan.shakeer@gmail.com, Dr.jananesivakumar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- The Government of India introduced the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme in its 2018 Budget as an ambitious project to transform and strengthen India's public health system, including through public funding for healthcare of disadvantaged groups
- Publicly-funded programmes like these are designed to improve survival and well-being, while safeguarding the community from catastrophic healthcare expenditure
- In India, however, there exist a few blind spots in the public health system, such as user experience, and people's trust and confidence in the system

HUMERUS


SOUMYADIP SINHA
HOW DID YOU GET THIS ANCIENT SCRIPT ON SUCH FRESH PAPER ?!
OH NO, THAT IS ACTUALLY MY DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION. I JUST CAN'T READ IT!
ARCHAEOLOGIST
A.S.I.

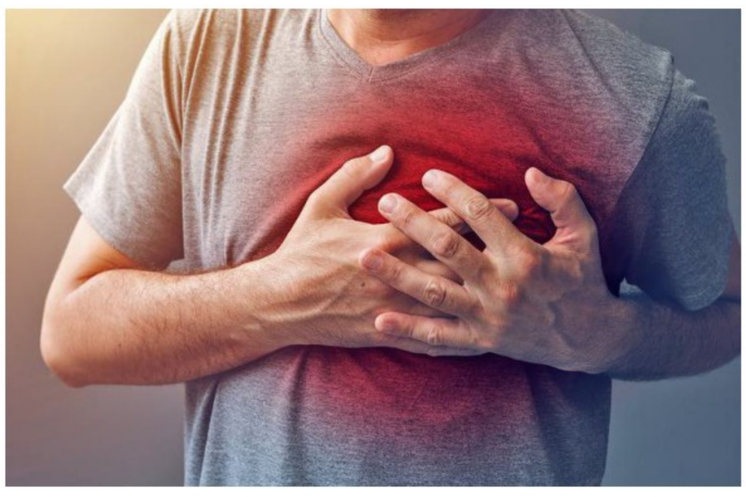
Bouncing back to life after a cardiac crisis

Abhijit Joshi

Aditya (name changed), a 47-year-old father of two, had always been active. A university-level badminton player in his younger days, he remained a regular runner and fitness enthusiast. A 5,000-metre run at the start of each weekend helped him maintain his physical and mental fitness despite a busy schedule. There was no past medical history. He looked healthy and fit.

During a work meeting one day, Aditya experienced a searing pain in his chest. He also felt uneasy. The pain continued even after he took two antacids. He began to perspire after a while, and experienced a heavy feeling in both shoulders. Sitting next to him, a co-worker saw something was amiss and called an emergency helpline and he was taken to a hospital with an emergency and cardiac team. His ECG showed that he was having a heart attack.

After being hurried to the cath lab, an angiography was performed on him. A blood clot had blocked one of his main heart arteries. To remove the blockage, a stent was inserted. After a straightforward procedure, he was moved to the intensive care unit, then to the ward, and after three days, he was discharged when he was stable.



Heart attacks are no longer just a problem for the elderly. A lot of young, active people are also at risk because of aspects related to their lifestyle. ISTOCKPHOTO

After the procedure, his only question was, *Doctor, will I be able to run again? Will I be able to play sports like before?'* Younger people who experience heart attacks usually worry about this. Despite their apparent activity, many of them have hidden risk factors.

Today, heart attacks are increasingly common among young people. The main causes include stress, long work hours, sleep deprivation, junk food, smoking, inactivity, and obesity. Additionally, some individuals experience elevated homocysteine or lipoprotein (a), along with other silent risk factors like excessive levels of bad cholesterol.

Aditya's cardiac function decreased from 60% to 40% after the heart attack. He began taking blood thinners, cholesterol-lowering pills, and medications to help his heart pump more efficiently. It was recommended that he follow a strict diet and consume more salads, fruits, vegetables, and lean meats like chicken or steamed fish. Ghee, vanaspati, fried food, and too much oil were to be avoided.

Warning signs

After a week, he started taking 4,000-5,000 steps per day. His LDL cholesterol had decreased to 50 mg/dL and cardiac function had improved to 50% at the three-month monitoring. He had more vitality. After seven months, he managed to complete a 10-km office marathon.

Never ignore warning indications such as shoulder pain, perspiration, or chest discomfort. Lives can be saved by immediate intervention and treatment. After a heart attack, it is possible to resume your regular life with proper support, care, medications, and lifestyle modifications.

Heart attacks are no longer just a problem for the elderly. A lot of young, active people are also at risk because of aspects related to their lifestyle. Regular health check-ups, regular exercise, a nutritious diet, and timely treatment can save lives; therefore, it is important to never ignore early symptoms. This case shows that even in young people, recovery from a heart attack is possible with timely treatment and healthy lifestyle changes.

(Dr. Abhijit Joshi, is head of department and consultant - cardiology, Manipal Hospital, Baner, Pune. abhijeet.joshi@manipalhospitals.com)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount to be spent on new highway projects in Odisha

4,000 in ₹ crore. The Union Road Transport Minister is set to inaugurate 19 national highway projects during a public meeting at Baramunda Maidan in Bhubaneshwar. The projects will cover 105 kms, according to an official release. PTI

Delhi Capitals bowling coach fined a share of the match fee

25 in per cent. Delhi Capitals bowling coach Munaf Patel has also accumulated one demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the high-octane game against Rajasthan Royals in New Delhi. The statement released did not specify Mr. Munaf's exact offence. PTI

Prisoners freed on occasion of traditional New Year in Myanmar

4,900 The head of Myanmar's military government granted amnesty to prisoners to mark the country's traditional new year, state-run media reported on Thursday. An independent watchdog said they included at least 22 political detainees. PTI

Amount of waste in Delhi that has been processed

15 in lakh tonnes. Delhi's Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Thursday said the government was exploring the possibility of hiring an additional agency to expedite waste processing and asserted that the city's garbage mounds would "disappear" in the next five years. PTI

Unused temple gold melted and deposited in banks by T.N. govt.

1,000 in kg. This investment of gold bars is fetching an annual interest of ₹17.81 crore, the government said. Gold articles offered to temples but not used for the deities were converted into 24-carat bars. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Is the once-extinct dire wolf back?

How did Colossal Biosciences use the genome of gray wolves to 'de-extinct' dire wolves? Why is the practice of de-extinction considered controversial and impractical? How will it affect environmental landscapes? Can ancient species thrive in today's world?

EXPLAINER

Arun Panchapakesan

The story so far:

On April 7, a biotechnology company in Texas, U.S., named Colossal Biosciences announced that it had "resurrected" a dire wolf, a large predator that went extinct more than 12,000 years ago. The company's claim that it had facilitated the birth of three dire wolf pups was met with a mix of wonder and delight. Videos of the baby wolves howling went viral, with the company calling their howls the first to be heard on earth in 10 millennia.

Have dire wolves been de-extincted?

The total DNA content of an organism, called its genome, is important to understand its identity. The genome of a gray wolf consists of 2.447 billion base pairs. This means there are 2.447 billion positions in the DNA filled by one of the four nucleotides: adenine, thymine, cytosine, and guanine. The order in which these four nucleotides appear determines the genetic identity of an organism. In a preprint paper uploaded on April 11, Colossal Biosciences claimed that the genomes of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and the dire wolf (*Aenocyon dirus*) are 99.94% identical, meaning 2.445 billion of the 2.447 billion base pairs were in the same places in the two genomes.

This small difference is enormous in genetic terms. Humans and chimpanzees share about 98.77% of their DNA, yet no one would mistake one for the other. In the case of wolves, the 0.06% difference still corresponded to 1.47 million base pairs differing between the two species.

These differences are what make the two animals distinct. To create these 'dire wolf' pups, Colossal scientists edited the genome of a gray wolf and implanted embryos with the modified genome into surrogate dog mothers. While Colossal hasn't revealed the exact nature of the changes its scientists made, it says on its website that it made "precise genetic edits at 20 loci across 14 genes" on the genome of a gray wolf to "recreate" the dire wolf. In other words, even if there were a few hundred individual edits across those 20 loci (or positions on the genome), the new animals probably contain 0.02% of the changes that would make them a true dire wolf. And this is an optimistic estimate. Put another way, the new wolf pups are far from being dire wolves.

From the past: Colossal's 'dire wolf' pups Romulus and Remus at 15 days old. AFP

What changes did scientists make?

The 20 locations where Colossal scientists edited the gray wolf genome all appear to be places that would result in cosmetic changes. For example, one of these regions is on a gene called LCORL, which is responsible for the dire wolves' larger size. Other edits include genes involved in fur colour and density. Thus, Colossal Biosciences can be said to have made gray wolves that look like dire wolves.

While the nature and magnitude of the genetic differences already undermine Colossal's claims, a 2021 study published in *Nature* raised a more fundamental issue. The study suggested that despite genetic similarities, dire wolves may not be true wolves at all, but rather a distinct canid lineage that diverged long before modern wolves evolved. This study prompted scientists to reclassify dire wolves, and their species name changed from *Canis dirus* to *Aenocyon dirus*. This means dire wolves' behaviour, social structure, and ecological roles are likely different from that of modern wolves.

Why is de-extinction controversial?

Colossal has said on its website that its mission is to "secure the health and biodiversity of our planet's future." To achieve this, the company aims to revive several extinct species – including the woolly mammoth, the thylacine, and the dodo – and reintroduce them in the wild. Bringing back animals that lived thousands of years ago, like the dire wolf or woolly mammoth, carries significant ecological risks. The environmental conditions, plant communities, prey species, and climate that once supported these animals no longer exist. Modern landscapes are fragmented, and heavily altered by human influence.

Reintroducing extinct species to such drastically changed habitats could do more harm than good, potentially disrupting current ecosystems rather than restoring ancient ones.

How is conservation changing?

Misguided claims like these can often have a detrimental effect on lawmakers' priorities. For instance, *The Washington Post* reported Colossal's dire wolf announcement buttressed the Trump administration's plan to weaken federal protections for endangered species.

It quoted Interior Secretary Doug Burgum as saying innovation rather than government regulations will protect species.

Scientists have estimated that 99.9% of all species that ever lived on the earth are now extinct. Dire wolves themselves most likely died out at the end of the last ice age when the numbers of large herbivores, their main prey, started dwindling. The idea of reviving extinct animals is certainly captivating but it seems more prudent to apply this technology to protect and strengthen existing ecosystems rather than reviving extinct ones.

The birth of the genetically modified gray wolf pups may mark the beginning of a new era in conservation, but doubt lingers on what kind of an era it will be.

Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai.

THE GIST

- In a preprint paper uploaded on April 11, Colossal Biosciences claimed that the genomes of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and the dire wolf (*Aenocyon dirus*) are 99.94% identical, meaning 2.445 billion of the 2.447 billion base pairs were in the same places in the two genomes.
- Colossal has said on its website that its mission is to "secure the health and biodiversity of our planet's future."
- Bringing back animals that lived thousands of years ago, like the dire wolf or woolly mammoth, carries significant ecological risks.

How can V2G technology help India's power sector?

What are Vehicle-to-Grid technologies? What is the status of this technology in India?

Chandana Sasidharan
Deepak Sriram Krishnan

The story so far:

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have initiated a pilot project to explore the implementation of Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology across the State. This collaboration aims to assess the feasibility of integrating Electric Vehicles (EVs) into the State's power grid.

What is V2G?

V2G refers to technologies that enable EV batteries to send power back to the grid. When an EV is not in use, it can act as a decentralised battery energy storage device. An idle EV, when connected to a bi-directional charger, can provide support to the distribution grid. By incorporating V2G technologies, EVs offer an opportunity to facilitate the integration of Renewable Energy (RE) and support a demand response market. Technologies for integrating an EV to the grid will need to consider both the charging and discharging of EV batteries. In the first case, there is a transfer of power from the grid to the vehicle (G2V) to charge the vehicle. And in the second case, an EV functions as a distributed energy source where it can provide power based on the requirement of the grid. Overall, the ability of EV batteries to transfer power encompasses many possibilities such as V2G, Vehicle to Home (V2H), Vehicle to Vehicle (V2V) etc. Among these, V2G is the most popular use case.

Is V2G being applied globally?

V2G technologies have gained significant traction in mature EV markets such as Europe and the U.S. EVs have emerged as a cost-effective form of distributed energy storage, with owners incentivised to supply power back to the grid. In the U.K. and The Netherlands, EV owners are compensated for supplying excess energy back to the grid during peak hours. In places like California, EV users are actively encouraged to participate in the ancillary services segment of the electricity market, helping improve grid stability and reliability. Under this market mechanism, the compensation is high enough to encourage EV users to offer services during periods of variation in RE generation. EVs are also an important decentralised storage resource, serving as an emergency power resource. With increasing climate-linked disasters, V2G must be encouraged.

What's the situation in India?

In India, V2G integration is currently in a nascent stage. The response to growing EV sales largely focuses on planning of the distribution grid with integration of EV charging infrastructure. A few DISCOMs have planned pilot projects for smart charging and V2G integration. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has set up a committee to frame guidelines for reverse charging, that is, from batteries to the grid. This committee highlighted smart charging as a key enabler to ensure EV growth with minimal impact on the grid. However, the electricity market structure in India is not the same as in the U.S. or Europe, and the current structure is not suited for decentralised solutions like EVs to send power back to grid. This is due to challenges that arise from the variable nature of RE and mismatches between electricity supply and demand. To mainstream V2G, supportive regulatory changes are needed.

What is KSEB-IIT Bombay project?

Kerala is currently experiencing a rapid adoption of EVs, and KSEB has taken several steps to support EV charging. The increased electricity demand for charging has resulted in concerns about evening peak demand. There has also been an exponential growth in rooftop solar adoption. The project plans to assess an EV's ability to support the grid during peak demand when solar energy is not available.

Chandana Sasidharan is a Program Research Fellow and Deepak Sriram Krishnan is the Deputy Director for WRI India's Energy Program. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- V2G refers to technologies that enable EV batteries to send power back to the grid. When an EV is not in use, it can act as a decentralised battery energy storage device.
- In India, V2G integration is currently in a nascent stage. The response to growing EV sales largely focuses on planning of the distribution grid with integration of EV charging infrastructure.
- Kerala is currently experiencing a rapid adoption of EVs, and KSEB has taken several steps to support EV charging.

Lokayukta seeks report on alleged irregularities in UDD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta has directed the Urban Development Department (UDD) to submit a detailed report on alleged irregularities related to postings in the Directorate of Municipal Administration, despite a vacancy rate of nearly 50%.

Directive follows plaint
According to the order, the Lokayukta has instructed a probe into the allegations and demanded a comprehensive report. The directive follows a complaint filed by social activist Jagadish M.S., who alleged that despite the high vacancy rate, the department continues to pay salaries to employees who have not yet been assigned postings, resulting in financial loss to the public exchequer.

The complaint claims that the UDD has disbursed approximately ₹4 crore in salaries to employees on a waiting list without being assigned official duties. It also alleges that in some cases, junior officers have been posted in positions meant for senior officials, reportedly due to favoritism. This lack of experience, the complaint states, is hampering effective administration.

Three private schools served notice by child rights panel for charging 'exorbitant' fee

KSCPCR has asked them to provide clarification with appropriate documents within three days

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has issued notices to three prestigious private schools in Bengaluru that follow the Central Board curriculum, following allegations that they are "unscientifically" charging exorbitant tuition and textbook fees.

Following a complaint filed by the Samriddhi Bharat Foundation, the KSCPCR issued notices to three schools on April 16 and asked them to provide clarification with appropriate documents within three days.

K. Naganna Gowda, Chairperson of KSCPCR, has warned that he will recommend the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) to take legal action against the schools under the Right to Education Act-2009 if they are unable to give satisfactory replies.

What rules say
As per rules, private schools can increase their fees by 10% to 12% per annum, depending on the infrastructure and other facilities. And they are supposed to publish the fee structure on the notice board. They must also submit a report to the government in this regard. However, no Fee Regulation Committee has been formed at the government level to monitor this.

As per rules, private schools can increase their fees by 10% to 12% per annum, depending on the infrastructure and other facilities.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

> Govt. does not have the power to regulate private school fees. If parents cannot afford fees, they can enrol their children in govt. schools
>
> **MADHU BANGARAPPA**
> School Education Minister

This year, most private schools have increased their fees by 30% to 40%, including tuition fees, textbooks and other fees, giving reasons such as increasing teachers' salaries, developing infrastructure and so on. In this context, V. Manjunath, president of Samriddhi Bharat Foundation, has filed a complaint with the Commission against three private schools of Bengaluru.

"The increase in school fees, besides the prices of books and other material, has created a huge burden on parents in this time of inflation. The public debate on the inconvenience caused to school students and their parents has been raised by the Commission, and appropriate action has been requested to be taken against the schools that are charging exorbitant fees," the Commission told the schools in the notice.

Government 'helpless'
Meanwhile, the government has expressed helplessness in controlling the high fees being charged by private schools on parents and children.

Responding to the media, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said, "The government does not have the power to regulate private school fees. If we fix fees, private school managements go to court. Therefore, if parents cannot pay fees to private schools, they can enrol their children in government schools. In addition to good education, in government schools, they also get books, uniforms, milk, eggs, and midday meals free of cost."

On the other hand, speaking to *The Hindu*, Naganna Gowda said that private schools cannot fix fees at their own whim.

He warned that in matters such as demand for excess fee or corporal punishment they could file *suo moto* petitions against schools.

CET-2025: Facial recognition app identifies impersonator; investigation ordered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A candidate who attempted to appear for the CET-2025 exam at the last minute was identified as an impersonator through a QR code-based facial recognition app on Thursday. The incident took place at the Silver Valley Public PU College exam centre in Malleswaram, and authorities have ordered an investigation into the incident.

A woman named Tuba Fathima Jameel arrived in the morning to write the mathematics paper. Upon arrival, she headed straight to the restroom and remained there for nearly an hour. Just as the exam was about to begin, she came out and attempted to enter the hall by showing an admit card with a QR code.

However, when her photo was captured and verified through the facial recognition app, it revealed that she was not a genuine candidate. Before the authorities could bring this to the principal's attention, the woman fled the scene, according to a statement issued by H. Prasanna, Executive Director, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

It was later discovered that she had affixed her photo onto the admit card belonging to the actual candidate, Tabu Naz. She had also entered incorrect exam dates. The college principal has been instructed to submit a detailed report along with video footage of the incident. Legal action will follow, Mr. Prasanna added.

A student undergoing security check ahead of CET on Wednesday at an exam centre at Sheshadripuram College in Bengaluru.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Prassana says the college principal has been instructed to submit a detailed report along with video footage of the incident

The new facial recognition system introduced by KEA to detect impersonators has proven to be effective. On the second day of its implementation, all verifications were successfully carried out using the app, with no technical glitches reported.

Mr. Prasanna, along with Administrative Officer Islauvuddin Gadyal, visited the Government PU College exam center in Malleswaram. They verified candidates using the QR code-based facial recognition app developed by KEA, expressing satisfaction over its performance. The officers scanned QR codes, captured candidate photos, and verified their identity on the spot.

This is the first time KEA has implemented such a system.

92.93% attendance
Out of a total of 3,30,808 candidates, 3,04,186 (91.95%) wrote the mathematics exam and 2,39,848 (90.90%) out of 2,63,867 candidates wrote the life science exam, held on Thursday. Mr. Prasanna said that considering both days, 92.93% of the candidates appeared for the two-day CET-2025.

Moving lorry catches fire on Peenya flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A moving lorry on Peenya flyover caught fire due to a short circuit in the battery box on Thursday afternoon.

The truck driver and his assistant stopped the vehicle and jumped to safety upon noticing the fire. No one was injured, the police said.

Traffic affected
Traffic movement on the flyover was disrupted for some time. However, Yeshwanthpura traffic police rushed to the spot and blocked one side traffic movement, diverting the traffic below the flyover. The Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and put out the fire.

BBMP garbage truck driver dies after being beaten up by public

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP garbage truck driver who was beaten up by an angry mob and admitted to the hospital following a road accident on Thanisandra Main Road on March 29, succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday.

The deceased, identified as Kondaiah, was a native of Andhra Pradesh and was working for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on contract basis.

According to the police, the truck, which Kondaiah was driving, knocked down a scooter and ran over a nine-year-old boy, killing him on the spot. The scooter rider and the father of the boy escaped with minor injuries.

Kondaiah

According to police, the truck knocked down a scooter on March 29 and ran over a nine-year-old boy, killing him on the spot

Irate passers-by, a group of around 15 men, dragged the truck driver out, beat him up, and set fire to the truck. Kondaiah sustained severe injuries and was admitted to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries due to a clot in the brain on Tuesday. While the Hennur traffic police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving against the driver, the Sampigehalli police, following the death, registered a case of murder and arrested four people in connection with this. The police are also on the lookout for the other accused who are on the run.

Earlier, the Sampigehalli police had booked a case against a group of people for staging a protest and blocking the traffic following the death of the 9-year-old boy.

Sringeri Mutt to fund cataloguing of 13,000 unpublished manuscripts at ORI

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Nearly 13,000 unpublished manuscripts with the Oriental Research Institute (ORI), whose contents are not known to the world, will be catalogued and published in an initiative that may provide valuable historical, cultural, and linguistic insights.

In connection with this, the ORI, which is affiliated to the University of Mysore, signed an MoU with Jagadguru Sri Shankaracharya Mahasamsthana Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, here on Thursday.

The Sringeri Sharada Peetham, also known as the Sringeri Mutt, will fully fund the project, which will cost ₹92.40 lakh.

As per the agreement reached between the ORI and Sringeri Mutt, it has been decided that the scholars will prepare a descriptive catalogue (Manuscripts Descriptive Catalogue) of approximately 13,000 unpublished manuscripts, print selected works in book form, and also undertake digitisation of catalogues in the form of a searchable database.

Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore N.K. Lokanath and others during the signing of MoU with Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham at ORI in Mysuru on Thursday. M.A. SRIRAM

M.K. Savitha, Registrar of the University of Mysore, and P.A. Murali, administrator of Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham, signed the mutual agreement for this project. On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, N.K. Lokanath, the Director of the Oriental Research Institute, D.P. Madhusudhanacharya, and scholars from both institutions were present.

Dr. Madhusudhanacharya said these 13,000 manuscripts contain both printed material and palm leaf manuscripts. They have been acquired by the ORI over the last 50 years and preserved, but they are yet to be catalogued.

"Hence, nobody knows the content of the manuscripts, and it could as well turn out to be something which will alter or reshape our understanding of India's past," he added. It could also shed light or offer a new perspective on the development of thought and philosophy of India," Dr. Madhusudhanacharya said.

Six scholars have been roped in for the purpose, and the project is expected to be completed in three years. These 13,000 manuscripts have already been digitised under another project, which is funded by the Mythic Society of Bengaluru.

The ORI is the custodian of nearly 15,000 bundles of palm leaf manuscripts, which contain over 70,000 manuscripts and works encapsulating various fields and branches of subjects, constituting a slice of India's intellectual heritage.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, TEJASHWINI S A, aged about 29 years, permanent Address #13/1, House No.5, 1st Floor, Surabhi Building, 2nd Main, KN Extension, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560 022 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. S.A. TEJASHWINI and TEJASHWINI S A are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 9th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary CHANDRAKALA at Bangalore.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, GIRASE THAGUBAI BAHADURSING dependent of GIRASE SUNIL BAHADURSING resident of SMQ–107/06, 6th Camp, Air Force Station, Jalahalli East, Bangalore– 560014 have changed by name from GIRASE THAGUBAI BAHADURSING to THAGUBAI BAHADUR GIRASE vide Affidavit dated 16–04–2025 before SR Ravikumar, Bangalore.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIDHI D/O Sanjeeb Kumar Singh R/O 603, CNR Habitat 4&5, Rajashree Layout, have changed my name to Nidhi Singh affidavit no IN–KA04997905624180X sworn before notary Y.R.Chandrasekar affidavit dated 11 April, 2025.

I, Hitherto Known As G B Dsouza Alias G Benadict Dsouza Alias Benedick Dsouza G D/O Gractian Dsouza Residing At 168, 12th Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore 560086, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gractian Benadicta D'souza For All Future Purposes

I, Hitherto Known As Nitaant Singh S/O Binod Singh Residing H-81, 8th Floor, H Block Diamond District, Opp Leela Palace, Kodihalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka 560008, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known Goku Singh For All Future Purposes

I, SYEDA Maliha Fathima, W/o Syed Mohammed Abuzer R/at No.41, 4th Cross, Anepalya, Adugodi Post, Bangalore-560030, have changed my name from Syeda Maliha Fatema to Syeda Maliha Fathima vide affidavit dated 17/04/2025 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

MISSING

MISSING
NAME: WELCOME RASMUT
Missing Since: 12th April, 2025
DOB: 10/8/2008
AGE: 16
SEX: Male
TRIBE: Pnar, Meghalaya
HAIR: Black
BUILT: Normal
HEIGHT: Approximately 4.8 ft
WEARING: Black T-Shirt and faded Green Pant
Last seen: Leaving out of an apartment gate in Kacharakanahalli, Bengaluru around 7:30 am on 12th April
IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
ARMEGO CHYLLA at +91 78489 37219

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Traffic Department
No.1 Rajaji Salai, Chennai - 1
E-Auction Notification
No. SWH/E-Auction-1/009/2025/TC dt. 17.04.25 MSTC REF: MSTC/SRO/CHPA/1/Traffic Department/25-26-4756 [501738]
E-Auction Notice for Sale of 2 Lots. (1) Stone Aggregates in Bulk (2) Semi Coke in Bags, Lying Inside Chennai Port area in "AS IS WHERE IS" Condition, on 08/05/2025.
Inspection Date: From: 17-04-25 to 07-05-25.
for Further details log on to:
www.chennaiport.gov.in
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/index_new.jsp
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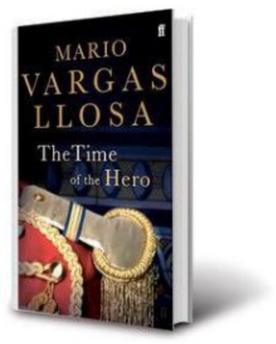
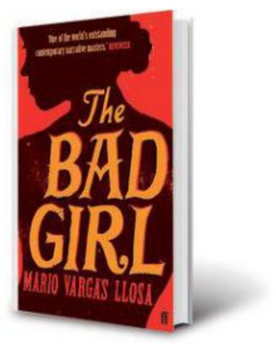
TRAFFIC MANAGER

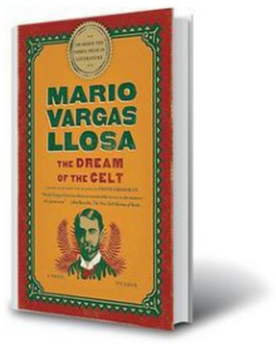
LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
5TH FLOOR KSHB BUILDINGS PANAMPILLY NAGAR, ERNAKULAM
O.A. No. 173 of 2024
Applicant : HDFC Bank Ltd.
DEFENDANTS
Sukumar K and another
SUMMONS
Whereas, OA No. 173/2024 is listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer on Whereas, This Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons against the defendants by paper publication on the said O.A. under Section 19 (4) of the Act.
Whereas the applicant has instituted the DA under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act 1993 against you for recovery of sum of Rs. 21,68,170/(Rupees Twenty One Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand One Thundred and Seventy only) together with current and future interest and cost and for other reliefs. In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:
1. To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
2. To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
3. You are restrained form dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
4. You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or Other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the Original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal ;
5. You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
6. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before this Tribunal on 11-6-2025 at 11.00 AM. failing which the Application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the 15 day of April 2025.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL-1
REGISTRAR (1)
Address of the defendants
1. Sukumar K aged 67 S/o KTK Raman residing at 201 CHABRA, Lake view Apartments, BS Makta Begumpet, Hyderabad, 500 016 Now residing at Flat No.B-1003,10th Floor. Pranav Le Royale, Thrikkakara, Kanayannur, Ernakulam-682 030
2. M/s. Pranavah Promotors Pvt. Ltd., No. 1357, "Karthamada" 11th Cross Road. 21st A Main Road, HSR Lay-out, Bangalore-560034. represented by its Director, Sandeep Ramachandra Menon

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Enduring legacy: Students learn about Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa at a public library in Lima, Peru. AP

Mario Vargas Llosa, 1936-2025: a strange, most astonishing contrast

The Peruvian master, who passed away on April 13, may have swung from left to right in his political beliefs but leaves behind a controversial legacy as a writer, essayist and politician. Llosa was one of the foremost writers of the 'Latin American boom'

Gautam Bhatia

One winter, many years ago, I was gifted a ticket to witness the Republic Day parade: the kind of gift you cannot refuse without offending the giver, and the kind of giver you cannot afford to offend. I grudgingly took myself to the venue, bereft of all distractions other than a novel clutched under my arm, a shield against the hours of tedium to follow.

At the entrance I was stopped, and informed that my book could proceed no further. I protested, held the pages up to the light, and pleaded that in no way was this creased paperback a security threat - to no avail. The book was confiscated, and I proceeded empty-handed to witness the celebration of the Republic. Once I was safely out of the security guard's earshot, I muttered, "at least enjoy the novel. It's all about military idiocy."

The book was *The Time of the Hero,* the 1963 debut novel of the Peruvian writer, Mario Vargas Llosa – who would no doubt have smiled to hear of this anecdote. Vargas Llosa passed away on April 13, leaving behind a storied and controversial legacy as writer, essayist, and politician.

One of the foremost writers of what is popularly known as the "Latin American boom," Vargas Llosa began his career sharing the anti-authoritarian, left-wing instincts of many of his contemporaries, such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Julio Cortazar. Unlike them, however, he ended his career (and his life) as a partisan of right-wing politics, a supporter of Jair Bolsonaro and Javier Milei, a votary of Friedrich Hayek, and a frequently conservative commentator in the pages of Spain's largest newspaper, *El Pais*. In the middle of all this, there was also a failed presidential run in the Peruvian election of 1990 – something that Latin American writers and poets are no strangers to.

One person, many views

What are we to make of this? Vargas Llosa himself would perhaps see no contradiction: after all, in his epigraph to *The Dream of the Celt*, he quoted Jose Enrique Rodo: "each one of us is not one, but many. And these successive personalities that emerge one from the other tend to present the strangest, most astonishing contrasts among themselves." From Fidel Castro to Jair Bolsonaro: an astonishing contrast indeed: as if the writer himself was a collection of disquieting heteronyms out of a Fernando Pessoa novel!

Yet even as his political commitments pitched and tossed like a boat in a lightning storm, there remained a deeper consistency to his literary work. Consider, by way of example, *The War at the End of the World* (1981), *The Feast of the Goat* (2000), and *The Dream of the Celt* (2010). Separated by three decades and dealing, respectively, with a millenarian civil war in 1890s Brazil, the last day in the life of Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo, and the tempestuous life of the Irish revolutionary and anti-slavery advocate, Roger Casement, each of these novels illuminate a theme that is woven into the warp and weft of Vargas Llosa's writing: a revulsion towards power, and a will to unveil the violence that is masked underneath the exercise of power in our world; in the words of Marx, "bar[ing] the head of the monster by knocking off the crown which shielded and concealed it."

Disdain for power

At his best, this disdain of power was mirrored by an empathy towards those who struggled against it.

This shines through most vividly in his decision to novelise the life of Roger Casement in *The Dream of the Celt*. Casement – the "fallen archangel" – was one of history's patron saints of lost causes: an anti-colonial radical in the era of Empire, a queer man in the age of the trial of Oscar Wilde, and an Irish revolutionary in the doomed Easter Rising. In excavating his life, Vargas Llosa became something akin to what Stuart Jeffries writes about Walter Benjamin: "... a historian... not just of defeated humans but of expendable things that, back in the day, had been the last word." And, like Benjamin, a salvager of the detritus, the shipwrecks of history.

And yet, although he is perhaps best known for his so-called "political works" – especially the Latin American tradition of anti-dictator (or "caudillo") novels – Vargas Llosa was anything but a one-dimensional writer. Consider another trilogy of novels, separated by time and space: *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* (1977), *The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto* (1997), and *Bad Girl* (2006). The first, a picaresque story of a radio jockey in 1950s Lima falling in love with a woman twice his age; the second, a novel of sexual fantasies mediated by the paintings of Egon Schiele; and the third, a modern-day retelling of Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, which pulls us around the world.

And if the theme of the previous trilogy is power, then the currency of this is its opposite and mirror image: transgression. These stories are Vargas Llosa at play, ludic excursions into realms that we would otherwise only tiptoe around.

If Mark Twain once wrote that "against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand," then it is the puckish, transgressive whimsy of these novels that is perhaps the greatest threat to the kind of power that Vargas Llosa despised so much: because if there is one thing that power insists upon, it is that it be taken seriously; and if there is one thing that these novels do, it is to laugh that conceit to scorn.

'Impulse of sympathy'

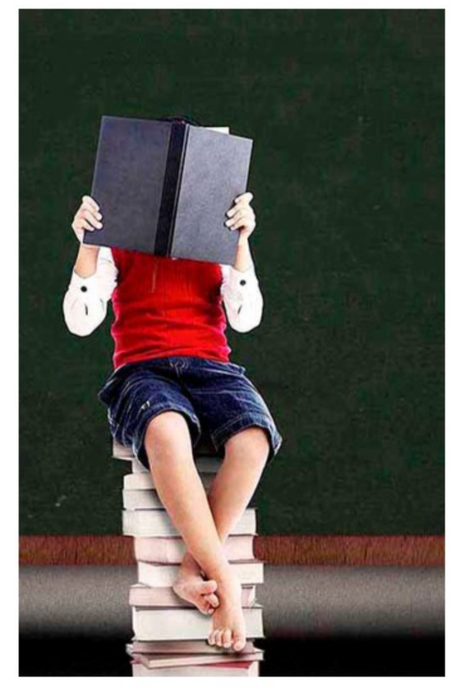
And so I think back once more to my dog-eared copy of *The Time of the Hero*, and wonder where it finally ended up.

We can always do with a searing critique of military culture in our modern-day, hyper-militarised societies; but perhaps, after reading the book, the man who confiscated it went on a Vargas Llosa journey, and found *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter, The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto*, and *Bad Girl*.

Perhaps they drew laughter, and the understanding that – along with Zbigniew Herbert, another great sceptic of power – it is better to "trust ... the pure impulse of sympathy" rather than the "feeble imagination" of power that only knows how to take itself too seriously.

If so, then in the great beyond, Mario Vargas Llosa – who once said that he wrote because he was unhappy – might feel content.

Gautam Bhatia is a writer, reviewer, and most recently, the author of 'The Sentence' (Westland 2024).



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"What does 'long in the tooth' mean?"

"It means 'aging or old'. For example, many of my uncles and aunts are long in the tooth."

"That's not surprising. After all, you yourself are long in the tooth, aren't you?"

"Ha! Ha! That's a good one. But you know..."

"... the reason I asked about this expression is because Sujatha used it this morning. She said that our new principal was long in the tooth. And I didn't know what she meant."

"You should have asked her then."

"No way. She would have told me how stupid I was and then..."

"... I get the point. But it's strange that you should ask me about this expression because I was reading about it only this morning."

"Really? Tell me then, how did this expression come into being."

"Well, the 'tooth' that is referred to is that of a horse."

"A horse!"

"Yes. You see, when a horse gets old, its gums recede. And when that happens, its teeth look 'long'."

"So, the older a horse is, the longer its teeth."

"Exactly! In fact, you tell the age of a horse by looking at its teeth. The longer the teeth, the older it is."

"Now, this expression is being used with humans as well. That's interesting."

"Well, our gums recede as we get older..."

"...what does 'recede' mean exactly?"

"Hmm. When you say something is receding, it is moving 'further away into the distance'. For example, I can say, I saw the tail lights of the car receding into the distance."

"How about a sentence that we hear on the news very often! The flood waters are receding."

"That's a very good example. The word 'recede', by the way, has another meaning."

"What is it?"

"When you say that a man's hairline is 'receding', what you mean is that he is starting to go bald by losing hair at the front of his head. For example, my uncle has a receding hairline."

"Forget your uncle. What about you? Your hair is receding as well."

"First you tell me I'm long in the tooth and now you tell me my hairline is receding. Any other insults?"

"No, I don't think so. Two is enough for a day, don't you think?"

"Get lost, will you?"

Published in The Hindu on March 19, 1996.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Some significant events occurred on April 18. Here is a quiz on observances, birthdays and everything else that happened on the day

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

Zimbabwe gained Independence from British colonial rule officially on this day. Which year did the country gain Independence and who was the first Prime Minister of independent Zimbabwe?

QUESTION 2

A major earthquake shook this city on April 18, 1906 causing widespread destruction and loss of life. Field studies of the earthquake led to the development of the elastic rebound theory. Where did the earthquake occur, what was its magnitude and who developed the theory?

QUESTION 3

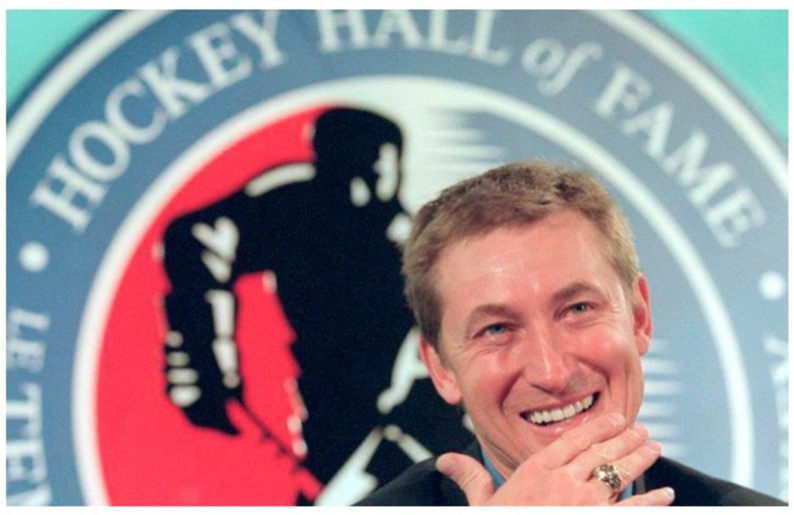
World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on April 18. What is the theme for this year and how many sites from India are on the World Heritage List?

QUESTION 4

A former late-night television host, who now hosts a podcast show celebrates his 62nd birthday today. Known for his slapstick and awkward, self-deprecating humour, he also hosted a big award programme recently. Identify the person.

QUESTION 5

Dubbed then as the royal wedding of the century, this American film actor married a prince of Monaco on this day in 1956. The ceremony was televised and attracted over 30 million viewers. Name the actor.



Visual question:
This player, considered one of the greats in the sport, played his last NHL game on this day in 1999. Identify the player and name the team he played for. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Name the style of narration attributed to Marquez. **Ans: Magical realism**
2. Name the Peruvian author who died this week. **Ans: Mario Vargaz Llosa**
3. The significance of El Universal with respect to Marquez. **Ans: A newspaper for which he worked**
4. Name the birthplace of Marquez. **Ans: Aracataca, Colombia**
5. Name the autobiography of Marquez. **Ans: *Living to tell the tale***
Visual: Name the novel. **Ans: *One hundred years of solitude***
Early Birds: Sonali Das| K.N. Viswanathan| Tito Shiladitya| Piyali Tuli| Arjun Debnath

Word of the day

Sporadic:
recurring in scattered and irregular or unpredictable instances

Synonyms: intermittent, periodic

Usage: *There have been sporadic outbreaks of violence in the village.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/sporadicpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /spəˈɹæd.ɪk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 18		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:33
RISE	23:09	SET 09:41
SATURDAY, APR. 19		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:33
RISE	00:00	SET 10:35
SUNDAY, APR. 20		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:33
RISE	00:01	SET 11:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	20

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

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THE HINDU
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Further discussion on caste census deferred to Cabinet meeting in May

CM has asked his Ministerial colleagues to submit in writing their opinions on the survey, even if it is a dissent note

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much-awaited Cabinet meeting held on Thursday to discuss the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes made no headway, and further discussion on it has been deferred to the meeting on May 2.

This was after several Ministers sought clarification over "technical" aspects and wanted additional details to enable a discussion.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has asked his Cabinet colleagues to submit in writing their opinion on the survey, even if it is a dissent note.

The survey report submitted by former chairperson K. Jayaprakash Hegde in 2024 has met with stiff resistance from the Vokkaliga and Veerashaiava-Lingayat communities, who have disputed their population figures and have termed the report "unscientific".

"The discussion remained incomplete, but it was cordial. Ministers felt that more details were needed to be discussed to arrive at a decision. They have sought details on population and backwardness," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons at the post-Cabinet briefing.

He said, "The next Cabinet meeting will be held at M.M. Hills, and the discussion will revolve around the development of the region. So we are likely to discuss the issue at the Cabinet meeting on May 2."

According to him, Ministers discussed social and economic parameters that had been set to collect data.

He said it was likely that the next Cabinet meeting would arrive at a decision on the issue.

Sources said the Ministers were not ready for an open discussion, and Mr. Siddaramaiah, soon after the meeting commenced, told them that opinions of all would be heard and taken, and pointed out that the survey would be beneficial to all communities.

When Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar suggested that written opinions could be given, the Chief Minister backed him. "No concrete discussion could take place," the sources said, adding that some Ministers were also worried about airing their opinions that could anger the Chief Minister and the Congress high command.

While one Minister belonging to backward classes suggested that taluk-level data could be checked through the tahsildar and the process could take time, a few more Ministers wanted details on the validation process of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, of the survey.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> The discussion remained incomplete, but it was cordial. Ministers felt that more details were needed to be discussed to arrive at a decision. They have sought details on population and backwardness
>
> **H.K. PATIL,**
> Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Public discussion
According to sources, it was felt that the findings in the report should be disseminated to the public so that there would be an understanding of how the survey had been conducted scientifically. When asked how many more Cabinet meetings would it required to arrive at a final decision, a Minister said, "If the Ministers continue to interact on the subject over the next fortnight, a decision could be arrived at at the Cabinet meeting on May 2."

Asked if discussion on collecting only population data again or the removal of the exemption of creamy layer policy for Category 1 had been discussed, Mr. Patil said, "We have not arrived at that stage yet. Discussion was only around the process of collection of data and parameters."

Earlier in the day, seven Ministers belonging to Veerashaiva-Lingayat community had met at a guesthouse in Sadashivanagar to chalk out a united response.

The Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha sources said that before the May 2 Cabinet they would convene a meeting of legislators from the community, and would also be holding a meeting with the Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha representatives also.

Global Wellbeing Confluence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Global Wellbeing Confluence 2025, organised by AYUSH TV, was held in Bengaluru from April 11-14.

Over 5,000 AYUSH doctors participated in scientific sessions and continuing medical education (CME) programmes, fostering knowledge sharing. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao reaffirmed government support for AYUSH, emphasising legal practice integration.

Global open innovation challenge on urban sustainability

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CMR University's lakeside campus in Bagalur became a hub of innovation during the two-day Global Open Innovation challenge held on April 16 and 17, as part of its flagship Design Thinking Day celebrations under CAUSE 2025.

Organised by the Department of Common Core Curriculum, the event was themed "Reimagine Your City". This year's edition received overwhelming participation with 770+ teams and 3,000+ students from 124 institutions across 13 countries and 75 cities.

More than 75 projects were showcased, focusing on AI and sustainability-driven innovations. Notable projects included an AI drone Agribot for afforestation, IoT-based smart helmets, vehicle accident alert systems, among others.

Is there a 'conspiracy' to blackmail Ministers by asking them to furnish views in writing? asks BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP on Thursday wondered if there was a "conspiracy to blackmail Ministers" behind the decision in the special meeting of the State Cabinet to ask Ministers to furnish their views in writing on the Karnataka Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) report.

In a social media post, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok wanted to know if the decision to get written views of the Ministers indicated "lack of trust within the Cabinet.".

'People's ire'
Mr. Ashok alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had brought the caste census report to the forefront to escape from people's ire against his government over a slew of issues including price-rise, collapse of law and order and lack of development.

Referring to the decision on the caste census being deferred as the discussion remained inconclusive in the Cabinet, Mr. Ashok said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah appeared to have decided to keep the issue alive and burning to divert public attention till the anguish of people against his government reduces. "The mega drama titled caste census of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that began 10 years ago is still continuing like a mega serial," he remarked. "What are the reasons for the State Cabinet not being able to arrive at any decision on the caste census?" he asked.

"If that is the case, then what is it that the special meeting of the State Cabinet achieved today?"

Mr. Ashok also wanted to know if there was any discussion in the State Cabinet about reconducting the caste census survey in a scientific manner. The BJP has termed the caste census report "unscientific" and demanded that a resurvey should be conducted on a scientific basis by using latest IT tools to provide authenticity.

Open-air museum at Lakkundi to showcase cultural heritage of Kalyani Chalukyas gains traction

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The proposal to establish an open-air museum at Lakkundi in Gadag to showcase the rich artistic legacy of the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty has gained traction with the Department of Archaeology, Museums, and Heritage seeking the expertise of the Deccan Heritage Foundation India (DHFI), in this endeavour.

The project, which got approval in the 2025-26 State Budget, will entail showcasing over 1,100 stone sculptures and antiquities collected from Lakkundi village in November 2024. The museum, once established, will offer visitors a glimpse into the built heritage bequeathed by the Kalyani Chalukyas who ruled parts of central Karnataka and the Deccan between the 10th and the 12th centuries CE.

Lakkundi, which was earlier known as Lokki Gundi, was the site of a mint during the Kalyani Chalukya period. But in the present times, Lakkundi is known for its many temples, stepwells, etc., that reflect the mature phase of the architectural style of that dynasty.

Nearly 1,100 artefacts and architectural material collected from the local community in Lakkundi will be showcased and thematically displayed in an open air museum. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A. Devaraju, Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums, and Heritage, said that a drive was launched to collect the artefacts from the local villagers in Lakkundi during November 2024.

"The initiative was supported by Minister for Tourism H.K. Patil, who personally interacted with villagers, underlining the importance of Lakkundi's heritage and the imperatives of preserving it, following which the local people willingly agreed to relinquish their ownership and contributed the artefacts to the authorities," he added. "The artefacts donated by the local community have been collected and preserved on an open land, and we have sought the assistance of scholars from the DHFI to not only study the antiquities but also suggest how they can be curated and thematically displayed as an outdoor gallery," Mr. Devaraju said.

Mr. Devaraju said that experts from the DHFI are expected to visit Lakkundi sometime during July.

"Once the concept of the museum becomes clear, we will go ahead with land acquisition to house the artefacts reflecting the theme suggested by the subject experts," he added.

In all probability, the project may take about a year to materialise.

VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANE

Sri. H. Basavaiah, IAS (R)
10th July, 1934 - 09th April, 2025

We deeply mourn the sad demise of Sri. H. Basavaiah who passed away on Wednesday the 9th April, 2025 at Bangalore.

Sri Basavaiah served the state of Karnataka with distinction as an IAS officer for over 3 decades till his retirement. He will always be remembered by the people for his distinguished service, humility and strength. He is deeply missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

Uttara Kriya will be held on
Sunday, 20th April 2025 at 12:00 noon at our home in Honnur, Yelandur Tk, Chamarajanagar to pray for the departed soul.

Smt. Rajamma
Smt. Radha and Sri. B.M. Rajashekar, Smt. Dr. Meena and Sri. N. Ramesh, Smt. Sudha and Sri. B.S. Guruswamy, Smt. Tejaswini and Sri. B. Chandrashekar, Smt. Arundhati and Sri. Rahul Kharge and Grandchildren

Contact: 8197273401, 9845409172 meenahb17@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest
(RIL/CBM/EOI/2025/03)
(Under International Competitive Bidding)
for
Blocks SP(West)-CBM-2001/1 & SP(East)-CBM-2001/1

Reliance is India's largest private sector company, with a consolidated revenue of ₹ 10,00,122 crore (US$ 119.9 billion), cash profit of ₹ 1,41,969 crore (US$ 17.0 billion) and net profit of ₹ 79,020 crore (US$ 9.5 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2024. Reliance's activities span hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, advanced materials and composites, renewables (solar and hydrogen), retail and digital services. Currently ranked 86th, Reliance is the largest private sector company from India to be featured in Fortune's Global 500 list of 'World's Largest Companies' for 2024.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), as operator, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Contractors for following categories for CBM blocks SP(West)-CBM-2001/1 & SP(East)-CBM-2001/1:

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DEV/CBM/DAC/2025/1	Supply of Equipment & Material and provision of Services for Drilling and Completion of CBM Wells for development of CBM field
DEV/CBM/GAG/2025/1	Supply of Equipment & Material and provision of Services for G&G for development of CBM field
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DEV/CBM/OTH/2025/1	Miscellaneous services required for development of CBM field
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DEV/CBM/HSE/2025/1	Supply of Equipment & Material and provision of Services related to HSE for development of CBM field
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Interested Contractors are requested to visit our website **www.ril.com** for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on **cbmeoiresponse.eandp@ril.com**, **on or before 9 May 2025**. Subject of the mail should mention **"RIL/CBM/EOI/2025/03"** along with category number. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents.

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Addendum-1 to Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (RIL/E&P/EOI/2025/02)
(Under International Competitive Bidding)
For All Blocks acquired under NELP I

Following categories are added in the Notice inviting Expression of Interest No. RIL/E&P/EOI/2025/02:

Category Number	Category Description
OAM/KGD6/2025/10	Inspection of CRP underwater risers using ART / SPECTA / LRUT technologies
OAM/KGD6/2025/11	Survey of subsea pipelines using Magnetic Thermography Method
DEV/COMN/2025/12	Engineering, Fabrication, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Chemical Storage & Transfer Facilities for Offshore Oil & Gas Installations

Interested Contractors are requested to visit our website **www.ril.com** for further details on the above and submit their EOI for above categories through e-mail on **deveoiresponse.eandp@ril.com**, **on or before 9 May 2025**. Subject of the mail should mention **"RIL/E&P/EOI/2025/02-Addendum 1"** along with category number. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents.

All other contents of the Notice shall remain unaltered.

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Growth is Life

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Data collection: A joint survey of land, cultivated by people who were displaced by the Sharavathi Hydel Power Project in Sagar taluk, being undertaken in Kallukoppa village in Shivamogga on April 15. SATHISH G.T.

Seven decades on, a glimmer of hope for land rights

A joint survey is currently under way by the Revenue and Forest department officials in all seven taluks of Shivamogga district to de-reserve forests in favour of those who lost land to the Sharavathi Hydel Power Project seven decades ago. **Sathish G.T.** visits the survey sites to meet people who are hopeful of getting title deeds for their land, at least this time around

It is 10.30 a.m. and four government officials have just reached Kallukoppa, a village in Sirigere, a gram panchayat in Shivamogga taluk. One of them is armed with a rover to record GPS location, while others are carrying documents.

The team, comprising officers of both the Revenue and Forest Departments, with residents as witness, begins a survey of the land at Maleshankara State Forest - 1. The objective is to identify the cultivators and measure the extent of land being cultivated by each. The cultivators in question are those who were displaced from villages in Hosanagar and Sagar taluks of Shivamogga by the Sharavathi Hydel Power Project in Sagar taluk.

A group of people, all aged above 55, had gathered to witness the survey. The work began with identifying the boundaries of land being cultivated by brothers C. Chandrashekhar and C. Ganesh, sons of the late Channabasava Nayaka. The family shifted to Kallukoppa way back in 1963 from Karuru hobli in Sagar taluk, as their village was about to be submerged in the backwaters of Linganmakki dam, constructed to generate power.

As the rover is placed on the boundary line, the gadget handled by the surveyor records the accurate location. They record the name and details of the cultivator, identify the boundary of the land, and also measure the extent of the land. This exercise of joint survey is currently on in all seven taluks of Shivamogga district over 9,129 acres. The district administration has appealed to the public to cooperate with the officials for the completion of the survey, as it is being conducted in support of the Karnataka government's application before the Supreme Court, seeking permission to de-reserve portions of forest land to favour the people affected by the power project.

As many as 42 teams have been formed to complete the fieldwork. The officers are expected to complete the task by the end of April. However, those on the field say meeting the deadline may be tough, given the extent of work involved.

After 70 years

The cultivators, in most places, are cooperating with the staff. This is because they believe that they might, finally, get legitimate rights over their land after this exercise. For them, it has been a long struggle spread over several decades.

"Only we elders in the family have come here to witness the survey process. Our children have lost hope of any positive result. However, we cannot let this go without our presence," said Narayana Gowda, aged around 63.

The families shifted from their native places in Sagar and Hosanagar taluks as their places were to be submerged in the backwater of the Linganmakki reservoir, built for the generation of power in the early 1960s. By 1963, the families were shifted to different locations. The administration indicated the portions of land in different locations for them to cultivate, but they were not given the rights over the land.

> My parents were shown a piece of land in Bhadravati taluk. It was a dry area, compared to the land we cultivated in Sagar taluk. Within a few days, our parents shifted to Kallukoppa.
>
> **CHANDRASHEKHAR**
> farmer

A view of the Western Ghats range. K. MURALI KUMAR

The land they cultivated remained a "forest area" in the documents of the Forest Department. In other words, the due process of transferring the land to the Revenue Department for further grant to the displaced did not happen.

As the process of offering relief to the displaced families was delayed, the issue became complicated. The cultivators lost records to support their claims over time. Only a few succeeded in getting relevant documents of land grants and maps. Since then, they have been fighting for their rights.

Alternative sources of income

Many of the youngsters have chosen alternative sources of income. They work as construction workers, shop attendants, and drivers, and many are in low-income jobs in the private sector. "Youth from the village are working in private firms in Shivamogga and Bengaluru. It is not surprising since three generations have passed since the wait for the resolution of the problem began," said Ramachandrappa, 59, who was a toddler when his parents moved to this place.

Initially, the then government showed the displaced families alternative land in Bhadravati and Tarikere taluks as well. The families moved with whatever could be packed up on the trucks made available by the government and moved. However, only after reaching the designated place did they realise how difficult it was to rebuild their lives.

"My parents were shown a piece of land in Bhadravati taluk. It was a dry area, compared to the land we cultivated in Sagar taluk. Within a few days, our parents shifted to Kallukoppa," recalled Chandrashekhar. People who lived amidst lush green and had developed a lifestyle in tune with the surrounding forests felt like fish out of water in the plains.

Over the decades, the families multiplied, and the land initially given to them to cultivate proved too small. According to villagers, many families did encroach upon additional land, as they had no other option. As a result, the extent of land they cultivated increased. A major chunk of the land they cultivated was forest land. On several occasions between 1994 and 2017, the State government issued orders to de-reserve the forest land for the benefit of displaced people. The process was done at a fast pace between 2013-18. Kagodu Thimmappa, who hailed from Sagar taluk and represented Sagar constituency in the Assembly, was the Revenue Minister then.

Many locals say he knew the problems faced by the displaced people well, as he had witnessed the developments since his childhood. As a resolution to the problem, he got the government to issue orders to de-reserve the forest land. Following the orders, many got hakku patra – title deeds – as well. But the story did not end there.

Following a public interest litigation filed by Girish Achar, a social activist from Hosanagar taluk, the Karnataka High Court, in March 2021, ordered the cancellation of de-notification.

He had argued that the State government had no right to de-reserve the forest land without taking due permission from the Ministry of Environment and Forests as per the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The court upheld the argument. This prompted the State government to withdraw the denotification orders in September 2021.

The BJP was in power when the denotification orders were withdrawn. This issue became a hot topic for politicians of both parties in Shivamogga. While Congress leaders pointed fingers at the BJP for withdrawing the orders, BJP orders blamed the Congress for de-reserving the forest land without taking permission from the MoEF.

Election issue too

Ahead of the Assembly elections in 2023 and the Parliament elections in 2024, the issue of rehabilitating the displaced became one of the major issues in the campaign. BJP leaders, including former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, his son and Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra, assured people that they would get necessary permission from the Centre.

On the other hand, Congress leaders led by Madhu Bangarappa took out a padayatra on this issue. They invited KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, who were leading the party campaign in the State, to take part in the protest and promise the people that they would resolve the issue if they came to power.

Even as the elections were to be held, the BJP sought the Centre to grant permission to de-reserve the forest land. However, the Centre refused, stating that the court's approval was required, citing that in earlier cases the court had objected. The Congress came to power after the 2023 Assembly elections.

Since then, farmers' organisations have held several protests, putting pressure on the State government to resolve the long-pending issue. The government filed an interlocutory application before the Supreme Court seeking permission to de-reserve the forest land. In December 2024, the Supreme Court gave directions to both the State and Centre governments to resolve the issue amicably by holding secretary-level talks.

Earlier in January this year, senior officers of the State government and representatives of MoEF met in Delhi. After a series of meetings, it was resolved to hold a fresh joint survey of land being cultivated by the displaced people.

More accurate this time?

Earlier surveys were conducted to assess the extent of land being cultivated by farmers. However, the data did not include the extent of land in possession of each cultivator. The officers involved in the process believe that this time the survey would be accurate and might bring down the total extent, which was earlier estimated to be 9,129 acres.

"In some locations, there are hillocks which are also included in the total extent of land. Such portions will not be included in the survey. Besides that, there could be some patches that remained uncultivated for several years," said an official. The officers have been asked to enter the data collected in a prescribed format. Chief Conservator of Forests K.T. Hanumanthappa, speaking at the training programme, said that 341 blocks of land had been identified for the joint survey. The officers would fill out the prescribed format. They had been told how to fill up the format and collect DGPS reading and spot mahajar. "The exercise is to furnish accurate data to the Central Government," he said.

Early solution

The cultivators want both the Centre and the State to resolve the issue at the earliest so that they enjoy ownership of the land they have been cultivating. "We are the people who sacrificed our lives for the project. The Sharavathi Project was implemented to generate power. Now, the entire State is getting light because of our sacrifice. But we are still in darkness. How long should we wait for alternative land?" Narayana Gowda asked.

The cultivators argue that the government had been generous in offering the big planters encroached land on lease, but was not concerned about poor people who sacrificed their lands for the power project.

Ramachandrappa says that their ancestors lost land not once but twice – initially, they were affected by the construction of the Hire Bhaskara dam (Madenur dam) in the late 1930s, and a couple of decades later, in the 1960s, they were hit by the Linganmakki dam project.

"All these years, we have not got fair compensation for the land we lost. However, the government is ready to give additional land to the coffee planters, who encroached upon government land," claimed Ramachandrappa.

A majority of those who are now hopeful of getting title deeds are small farmers. As the generations passed, the land was fragmented among family members.

Shivappa, also a resident of Kallukoppa, has only 20 guntas of land. However, he too has no records of rights over the land he had cultivated all these years. With no rights, the farmers cannot sell it or develop it.

"The government should be generous to the poor farmers. Our parents passed away without owning the land they possessed. We don't know if our dream of owning land will be fulfilled in our lifetime," said Manjappa, as he watched the survey work being conducted.

Tuning up Ravi Basrur in his studio.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Surround sound

Music composer Ravi Basrur, who is gearing up for his directorial *Veera Chandrahasa*, opens up on the ambitious project

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Ravi Basrur loves experimenting. After charting his own path as a music composer with distinctive music in blockbusters such as *KGF* (Chapters 1 and 2 starring Yash) and *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire* (featuring Prabhas), he is set for his sixth directorial *Veera Chandrahasa*.

The historical film has the traditional art form Yakshagana as the main element throughout its narrative. The ambitious project attempts to blend folklore and drama, and is set to release on April 18, 2025. The music composer opens up on *Veera Chandrahasa*, his style of music composing, handling criticism and more.

Excerpts:

Question: *What is the origin of* Veera Chandrahasa?
Answer: Yakshagana is a thriving art form in the Karavali region. With this film, I wanted to address some problems suffered by the artistes. Every year, they work for six months and are unemployed for the next six. I see *Veera Chandrahasa* as a tool to discuss these issues with the G overnment. Also, the artistes don't have modern sound kits. Their health is affected because of the high-pitched shouting involved in their performances. They deserve lapel microphones instead of hanging mikes.

Q: *How have you experimented musically in* Veera Chandrahasa?
A: Usually, I produce modern sounds using strings or violins. But for this movie, I used only two instruments: Madal and Chanda. We wanted the audience to feel the vibration through the screen through the sound quality of the two instruments. For the entire movie, we have used 1,600-1,700 recording tracks of Chanda and Madal to create the atmosphere of the Yakshagana experience on screen.

Q: *Shivarajkumar plays a prominent role in the movie. What made you think he is apt for the film?*
A: This film is an attempt to take the popularity of Yakshagana beyond Karnataka, and you need a popular face to achieve that. We approached Shivanna (Shivarajkumar) after completing the movie's first schedule and showed him the visuals. He was thrilled to see our work. We gave him a solid character, and it's not a cameo for the sake of it.

Q: *What was the reason behind setting up a studio in your hometown Basrur, Kundapura?*
A: Initially, people thought I had lost it when I poured so much money to set up a studio there. I decided to come back with the best products and in the five years since, the studio has generated ₹21 crore so far. Around 30 people are working there. I am happy with the growth.

Q: *In* Salaar, *a group of women keeps chanting as Prabhas kills the antagonist. How did you create music just by the chants?*
A: Music can stimulate people emotionally, and doesn't need lyrics to enhance it always. In *Salaar*, the 'Yaa Yaa Yaa' chants express the pain of the women from that tribe. You don't need lyrics for that. Even in *KGF: Chapter 2*, Reena (played by Shrinidhi Shetty) tells Rocky (Yash) she is pregnant. The tune during the scene has become viral.

Q: *You often get criticised for loud scores. How do you defend it?*
A: I am not on any social media, so there's no question of getting affected by criticism. I want the audience to get the feel of watching a Hollywood film while watching our movies. Take any youngster's Spotify playlist, and they will mostly have English songs. So we must not fall behind in matching their quality. After we released the video 'Sound of Salaar', those who worked with me for the film were thrilled that they had collaborated with us.

I had to be ready for rejection as well. I keep expectations in check and do not respond to everything said out there – it helps my music. Also, people who work in the music department are quite sensitive. That's the reason I dropped out of social media.

SUDHAKARA JAIN

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

Crossing the *vaadivaasal*

A graphic book adaptation of CS Chellappa's *Vaadivaasal* penned by Perumal Murugan and comic creator Appupen captures the ethos of jallikattu

Parshathy J Nath

The crowd watches with bated breath. It is a tussle between man and beast. Who will win? Pichi the boy, Kaari the fierce bull, or the zamindar who owns the animal? Clouds of mud fly up in the air as the crowd in Chellayipuram throngs the *vaadivaasal* (entrance to the arena) to see the jallikkattu action live.

Vaadivaasal: The Arena is a graphic novel adaptation of the book by the same name by CS Chellappa published in 1949, and written by author Perumal Murugan along with Bengaluru-based comic creator Appupen, who has also illustrated it.

Appupen stayed in Madurai for three days to soak in the chaos at the arena. "You have to just stand in the sun and feel it to get that mood. But if you were on your sofa and surfing photos of it online, you are not getting the mood because you are in your comfort zone. You have to be with the people, see the dust, and sweat."

Working with Perumal Murugan was one of the many highlights of this project for him. "He was accepting of me, and was taking my suggestions. I wanted to show myself that I am thinking of the craft of storytelling in a way he can accept."

Initially, Appupen made a rough storyboard of 30 pages to show Murugan the nature of his work. "I told him for our comic, we won't write what we have shown in the drawing unlike some comics in India. We wanted to talk to a more informed audience, treat them better. And he took it seriously."

The graphic novel medium urged Murugan to think more visually. "I already had an experience of writing film scripts. Appupen decided what was necessary and unnecessary according to his images. We had an understanding between each other," says the writer.

As a writer who wrote the foreword for the republished version of *Vaadivaasal* in 2004, he was also familiar with the writings of Chellappa, including another book of short stories on bulls.

CS Chellappa looks at jallikkattu with the detached perspective of a writer, says Perumal. "He has such a good knowledge about the bulls himself because he comes from the Ayyar family, the landowners. And many of them used to raise bulls. He has also gone to Alanganallur and taken almost 150 photos of jallikkattu himself. " He does not look at it through the binary of right or wrong. "He is not trying to take a stand for the humans or the bull. And this is a form some writers employ; they stand at the periphery of an event, focussing on the emotions and stories involved."

In the novel, you see Pichi, a fallen champion, and zamindar in all his complexity.

It's hard to miss the regional cadences in *Vaadivaasal*. From Pichi and Maruthan, his friend, to the onlookers and the grandfather figure who eggs him on to fight, their words carry the lilt of Tamil. "Sometimes editors want proper English, but sometimes a character might be talking in broken English! Now, don't clean that up. If it's a bad editor, all your characters will sound the same," says Appupen.

The love for the animal is an important ingredient in this 2,000-year old tradition, Murugan explains. Coming from an agricultural family, Murugan too is familiar with the tradition of jallikkattu. "I know how it is to raise cattle, what are the characteristics of the bulls..." Murugan's students themselves are jallikkattu players. He has seen them feeding the bulls all through the year, making them practice for the big day. The tradition springs from an organic relationship between man and cattle in an agrarian set up.

> ***You have to stand in the sun and feel it. If you were surfing photos of it online, you are not getting the mood. You have to be with the people, see the dust, and sweat.***
>
> **APPUPEN**
> Graphic artist

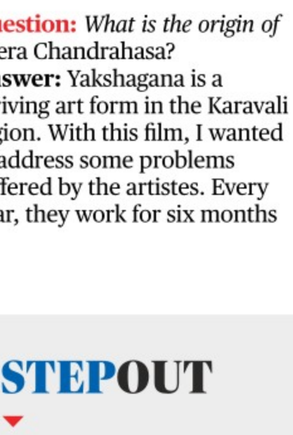
Murugan adds, "In the story, Pichi's father, even after he is injured by the bull, does not tell his son not to take part in the sport because it's risky. He urges him to keep his pride alive by winning the next game. Jallikkattu is a culture where so many factors come to play: pride, ego, rivalry and love. A writer's job is to chart all these human emotions."

Published by Simon & Schuster, the book is priced at ₹699

STEPOUT

Extraordinary voices

Dive into Banu Mushtaq's *Heart Lamp: Selected Stories*, where fearless narratives illuminate the struggles and resilience of Muslim women in southern India. Translator Deepa Bhasthi and editor Shinie Antony will unpack the interplay of faith, caste, and gender in these award-winning stories, revealing how journalism and law shape Mushtaq's literary activism.
On April 20, from 6pm to 7.30pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Free entry on a first come, first seated basis.



On a wild note

Set the tone this weekend with country vibes, craft-cocktails and live music. The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar, will present Wild West Fridays, which is a weekly celebration of country-inspired melodies. The evening will feature independent musicians — vocalist Mylo and Rindika, known to be a multi-instrumental talent. The duo is known for its genre-hopping sets as well as a blend of retro, indie, and pop.
On April 18, from 8pm. Call 9152010478 to book your table.

A steaming cup of sustainability

Arshiya Bose of Black Baza Coffee on winning a Speciality Coffee Association award

A sip in time Arshiya Bose. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Preeti Zachariah
preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in

Arshiya Bose feels that a conversation she had in Coorg, back in 2011, when she was pursuing her PhD at Cambridge, was a "pivotal moment" in her journey towards creating Black Baza Coffee. During her fieldwork to understand the impact of global sustainability certifications on farmers, she met the mother of a local grower from India's coffee cup. "She asked me if I was going to do anything useful after my PhD," recalls Arshiya.

This comment made her realise that much could be done to make coffee cultivation more sustainable – considering both the environmental impact of conventional coffee farming and the fact that the bean is particularly vulnerable to climate change. In 2014, after completing her PhD, she returned to India, going on to start Black Baza two years later, naming the brand after a small, migratory raptor.

The beginnings were small: 100 kilograms of coffee bought from four different farms. "Now, we now work with around 650 farms (mainly in Palani, Wayanad and BR Hills)," says Arshiya of the Bengaluru-headquartered "activist company," which has just won the Speciality Coffee Association (SCA) 2025 Sustainability Awards in the 'For Profit' category.

This annual award, by the world's largest global coffee trade association, recognises "excellence in product innovation, design, and sustainability across the industry" with the winners being formally recognised for their achievement at Speciality Coffee Expo in Houston in April.

Standards for sustainability

Black Baza only works with smallholder farmers who have already been growing organic coffee and are committed to maintaining and improving the native forest cover on their farms. Arshiya adds that Black Baza also helps farmers with the post-harvest process, working very closely on building capacity to produce better quality, speciality coffee.

According to her, considerable care was taken to bring in a system of fair, transparent pricing, placing a premium on the coffee's quality and the farming practices followed, including the attention paid to preserving the local biodiversity. Making coffee farms friendly to local flora and fauna, she says, is an especially crucial mandate of Black Baza since most coffee-growing areas are in places that are also rich in biodiversity.

Keeping with this focus on biodiversity, the names of all of Black Baza's coffees, which are sold in compostable packaging, are inspired by various species such as potter wasps or lion-tailed macaques.

To know more, log into https://blackbazacoffee.com/

Grand Flea Market
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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Date: 4th April to 20th April 2025
Timing: 10:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
(7 Galleries and Lawn Area)
Near Shivananda Circle, Kumara Krupa Road
Bengaluru - 560 001.
17 Days Exhibition Entry Free
Contact: 6364685716 / 9036658774
70+ Shopping Stalls | 50+ Craftsman | Entry Free

Lorry strike called off after State govt. promises action on demands

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The strike, which began at midnight on Tuesday, had seen nearly six lakh lorries parked across Karnataka. SUDHAKARA JAIN

After almost three days of disruption to goods transportation across Karnataka, the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association (FKSLOA) has called off its indefinite strike following the third round of talks with Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday.

The strike, which began at midnight on Tuesday, had seen nearly six lakh lorries parked across the State, severely affecting the movement of essential and non-essential commodities. Lorry drivers had been demanding a rollback of the recent diesel price hike and a reduction in toll charges, among other issues.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that the government has assured the association of taking necessary steps to address its concerns. "The association has submitted various key demands. One of their requests was to remove border check-posts. I have directed officials to conduct an on-ground inspection and submit a report. Based on that, appropriate action will be taken," Mr. Reddy said.

Another demand raised by the association was related to the restriction on lorry entry into city limits during peak hours.

"We will consult with the police and review this issue to find a balanced solution," Mr. Reddy added.

On complaints regarding delays and fixing a time in issuing fitness certificates for vehicles, the Minister said that officials have been directed to issue them between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. to avoid traffic congestion and delays for lorry drivers.

The association also brought up the issue of illegal tractors operating in city areas under the guise of agricultural activity while actually engaging in commercial transport.

"They have been dumping debris illegally in the city. We will initiate strict action against such vehicles," Mr. Reddy said.

The Minister further announced that the process for payment of penalties will be moved online to make it easier for lorry owners.

Responding to the demand for a 50% waiver on penalties pending for over a decade, he said, "This falls under the purview of the Finance Department. I will discuss it with the Chief Minister and take necessary steps."

Regarding the diesel price hike and toll charges, Mr. Reddy stated that he had already brought the matter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's attention and would do so again. "Some demands like toll rates, vehicle scrapping policy fall under the Union Government. I will be writing to Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways, soon," he added.

Following the government's assurances, FKSLOA president G.R. Shanmugappa said the strike will be withdrawn immediately. "Most of our demands have been positively considered by the government. Mr. Reddy has promised to take our concerns to both the Chief Minister and the Union Government. Hence, we are calling off the strike. Lorry and goods vehicle operations will resume across the State from today," he said.

Earlier, on Tuesday evening, despite a high-level meeting with Mr. Siddaramaiah, the lorry drivers and owners had refused to end their agitation.

The Chief Minister's Office had acknowledged their concerns but justified the ₹2 increase in diesel cess, introduced in the State Budget. "Even after the hike, diesel prices in Karnataka remain lower than in neighbouring States," the CMO stated.

Price rise: Cong. leaders protest against Central govt. policies

They, however, defend increase in milk prices, stating that the benefits will be passed on to the farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a protest in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The ruling Congress in Karnataka held a massive protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Thursday against the Union government's policies that they argued has caused a steep hike in the prices of fuel, LPG, construction materials, fertilizers, gold and silver, and other goods.

Senior leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, joined the protest, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of reducing subsidies for fuel and LPG and increasing prices since 2014. They demanded that the NDA government roll back the hike in fuel and LPG prices.

The Congress leaders defended the hike in milk prices, rolled out by the State government, stating that the benefits would be passed on to the famers.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, Mr. Shivakumar, and AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala compared the prices of fuel and other essentials during the UPA-II regime in 2014 and the Mr. Modi-led government in 2025. They said the BJP had no moral right to stage protests against the State government's policies and hike in prices.

Citing an example, they said that while the price of 10-gram gold shot up from ₹28,000 to ₹95,000 in the last one decade, prices of silver went up from ₹43,070 to ₹94,000 per kg. Prices of cement, PVC pipes, sugar, wheat, salt, and rice have gone up many times since the Mr. Modi-led government came to power and caused a burden to the common people, the leaders alleged.

"The State government is transferring over ₹53,000 crore annually into the bank accounts of the people of Karnataka by way of guarantees in order to fight the inflation," the Chief Minister said.

Ministers including Krishna Byre Gowda, K.H. Muniyappa, Ramalinga Reddy, K.J. George, former youth Congress chief B.V. Srinivas, and many other leaders spoke and launched a scathing attack on the BJP for "relentless price hikes and tax increases" over the last one decade.

Janakrosha rallies see BJP leaders accusing Congress of 'appeasement' policies

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

BJP leaders and workers during the Janakrosha rally in Vijayapura on Thursday. RAJENDRA SINGH HAJERI

As culmination of the second leg of its Janakrosha Yatre, the BJP held rallies in Bagalkot and Vijayapura on Thursday. Though planned as a form of protest against the price rise allegedly owing to the wrong policies of the State government, the rallies at both places saw most speakers focusing on what they called "minority appeasement policies" of the Congress government and the ongoing debate on the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census).

State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra led a padayatra in the two cities before a public rally. He said in Bagalkot that the Siddaramaiah-led government had no intention of developing the State. All the Ministers were involved in enriching themselves.

"The Chief Minister is just busy in keeping his chair intact by using diversionary tactics. He has brought out the caste census issue only to divert attention of the people from the real issues," Mr. Vijayendra said.

He criticised the State government for its provision to provide reservation to Muslims in government contracts and procurement under OBC quota.

He said that the State Budget promises ₹50,000 for the marriage of Muslim girls and ₹30 lakh for Muslim students who want to study abroad. "It is the taxpayers' money that will be wasted," he said.

Mr. Vijayendra said that people were upset with the Congress and will "throw out the anti-people, anti-Hindu government."

Jagadish Shettar, MP, former Ministers B. Sriramulu and Govind Karjol, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, MLC, and others were part of the protest.

Kumar Gandharva music school inaugurated in his native Sulebhavi

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, Kumar Gandharva's daughter Vidushi Kalapini Komkali, and his grandson Bhuvanesh Komkali with students at the Kumar Gandharva music school in Sulebhavi village in Belagavi district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Recently, many residents of Sulebhavi in Belagavi district gathered at the government high school in the evening to witness an important event – the inauguration of the Kumar Gandharva Sangeet Vidyalaya, a music school built to commemorate the centenary celebrations of Hindustani music legend Kumar Gandharva who was born in this village in 1924.

The school is an extension of the government high school building in Kalmeshwar Nagar, and has been funded by the Belagavi-based Markumbi Itihas Upakrama Foundation. The non-residential facility will provide classes in Indian classical music to the children of surrounding villages. The school, which has space to accommodate around 50 students at one time, is stocked with several musical instruments. It will also organise concerts, members of the foundation said.

Hopeful of help

Jagadish Naganur, a resident of Sulebhavi, whose family runs a hotel in the house in which Kumar Gandharva was born, was thankful to the foundation for the school. "We are happy that the foundation agreed to supply music instruments, appoint teachers and run the music school. We will be very happy if the government of Karnataka expands the school to include more students," he told *The Hindu*.

Minister for Women and Child Development, Disabled and Senior-Citizens Empowerment Laxmi Hebbalkar, who was the chief guest at the inauguration on March 31, thanked the foundation and hoped that the school would produce several young artistes as talented as Kumar Gandharva. She spoke of the life and contribution of Kumar Gandharva. She spoke of how he was a popular performer at the age of 11.

"He was not only a singer, but also an innovator. He created new raagas, and sang songs of Kabir and Nirguni bhajans set to Hindustani ragas," she said, adding that the State government would continue to support cultural activities and festivals in historical places.

The Kumar Gandharva music school built by Murkumbi Itihas Upakrama was inaugurated on March 31. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kumar Gandharva's daughter Vidushi Kalapini Komkali, a well-known classical singer, and his grandson, Bhuvanesh Komkali, a young singer, inaugurated the school.

Ms. Komkali said she felt emotional while visiting the village and inaugurating the music school named after her father.

Mr. Bhuvanesh Komkali also visited the ancestral house of the Komkalimath family.

From Karnataka to MP

Kumar Gandharva was born as Shivaputrayya Sidramayya Komkalimath, in Sulebhavi on April 8, 1924. He was considered a child prodigy and given the sobriquet of 'Kumar Gandharva' by a local seer.

Early in life, he received training from his father and uncles. His father sent him to stay in the home of Pandit B.R. Deodhar, to learn from him, in Miraj in Maharashtra. In 1940, he shifted to Dewas in Madhya Pradesh to recuperate from a bout of tuberculosis. While in Dewas, he developed a unique style of singing.

The Upakrama is one of the three foundations started by Belagavi-based industrialist Vidya Murakumbi and her son Narendra Murkumbi. Construction of the school is part of the Pandit Kumar Gandharva's birth century celebrations launched by the foundation in 2024. Vidya Murkumbi said the foundation would continue to support the school.

Hearing on Ranya's bail plea adjourned till April 21

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had violated procedure under the Customs Act while searching and arresting actor Harshavardini Ranya Rao in a gold smuggling case, it was argued on her behalf before the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday during the hearing of her bail petition.

Also, it was contended that there cannot be any hurdle in law to grant bail as the offence alleged against her does not attract imprisonment for more than seven years and she has already spent 45 days in custody.

Justice Vishwajith S. Shetty, before whom the petition came up for hearing, adjourned further hearing till April 21 to enable the DRI to file its objections and to hear further arguments on behalf of Ms. Rao.

Senior advocate Sandesh J. Chouta, who represented Ms. Rao, argued that she was not searched in the presence of a gazetted officer as per Section 102 of the Customs Act. Though a woman senior intelligence officer, who headed the DRI team was a gazetted officer, the law required that the search should be conducted in the presence of an independent gazetted officer not connected with the investigation team, argued Mr. Chouta.

The court on April 21 will also hear the bail petition filed by Tarun Konduru Raju, a U.S. citizen, who is arraigned as accused number two in the case.

Ms. Rao and Mr. Tarun are before the High Court as their bail pleas were rejected by a city metropolitan magistrate court and a sessions court. The sessions court declined to enlarge her bail by pointing out that it is a serious offence impacting the country's economy while rejecting the claim of procedural illegality in conducting search and arresting her.

BIS organises training event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru, conducted a training programme for Resource Support Team (RST) members on Thursday.

The event brought together representatives from government bodies, NGOs, consumer organisations, academia, and industry professionals.

Sushma Rao M., director and head of BIS Bengaluru, who inaugurated the programme, highlighted the critical role of RST members in strengthening the quality ecosystem at the grassroots level.

Premalatha Sinha, joint director, BIS, provided an overview of BIS's mandate, promotional activities.

Office of the Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA)
9th & 10th Floor, V.V. Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Web: www.municipaladmn.gov.in

No: 1472186/DMA/DEV/AMRT/44/2024 Date: 17.04.2025

NOTIFICATION

Directorate of Municipal Administration, Karnataka, intends to invite proposals from qualified consultants for the following work.

Sl. No.	Notification No.	Description of Work
1	DMA/2025-26/SE5176	Consulting Services for Carrying out Credit Rating for 36 ULBs in Package 1 (South)
2	DMA/2025-26/SE5177	Consulting Services for Carrying out Credit Rating for 36 ULBs in Package 2 (North)

Calendar of Events: 1. Tender document publishing date: **17.04.2025.** 2. Pre-bid meeting: **23.04.2025.** 3. Last date for receipt of proposals: **03.05.2025.** 4. Opening of Technical Proposals: **05.05.2025.** 5. Presentation on Approach and Methodology: **07.05.2025.** 6. Opening of Financial Proposals: **Will be communicated directly to the Consultants qualifying the Technical Evaluation.**
Link to KPP Portal - https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Note: Please contact for any additional information and clarifications (during the office hours only) **Joint Director (Development),** 9th & 10th Floor, DMA, V.V. Towers, Dr. Ambkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Contact No: **080-22863731** e-mail address: **dmablr.jdd1@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/254/MAA/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

V VENKATARAMANAN
Ex-BHEL, Trichy (Ins. Quality)
Passed away on 12.4.2025
Deeply mourned by
L.S. Srimathi (ex-BHEL) and Family
Moremilaga.com | Panjavarnam.com
Subham on 24.4.2025
Ph: 9884721727

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The dark forest: Into the mysterious world of the Myristica swamps

Priya Ranganathan's book on Myristica swamps reveals a fascinating world with its rich biodiversity. These unique, freshwater swamp ecosystems are found in parts of the Western Ghats

Myristica fatua, the wild nutmeg, is a swamp obligate tree found only in Myristica swamps. SUDHANVA ATRI

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Priya Ranganathan's first encounter with a Myristica swamp was back in 2019 when she was working as a research assistant at the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) on a hydro-ecology project. As part of a field trip with other researchers, she was exploring the Aghanashini, one of the rivers that flows through Sirsi taluk in Uttara Kannada district.

"We trekked quite a distance into one of these swamps," she says, recalling that since it was during the monsoons, there was a heavy mist all over the landscape. "I remember thinking that it was so incredibly cool: a Malabar pit viper was lying there, roots everywhere, frogs were croaking, the mist was so low...it looked like a lost world," says Priya, who has since closely studied this unique ecosystem and has just come out with a book titled *The Dark Forest: An Illustrated Guide to the Biodiversity of the Myristica Swamps*.

Her interest, piqued during this first encounter, deepened as she began studying these swamps as part of a project she was working on with ATREE researchers Dr G. Ravikanth and Dr N.A. Aravind. The time she spent reviewing literature on these swamps, talking to people who had worked in these places, and writing a manuscript based on this work, "made me interested in scientifically assessing swamps as a system," says Priya, who eventually started her PhD on the subject, which she is currently pursuing at ATREE with Dr Ravikanth and and Dr. Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Dean, School of Environment and Sustainability (SES), Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS). "That is how the journey took off, and I have not looked back since then."

A primaeval world

Myristica swamps are unique, freshwater swamp ecosystems found in certain parts of the Western Ghats, "one of the least studied and most endangered wetland ecosystems in the country," writes Priya in *The Dark Forest*, going on to describe them as "relic ecosystems, remnants of an ancient landscape that once stretched across the river valleys of the Western Ghats."

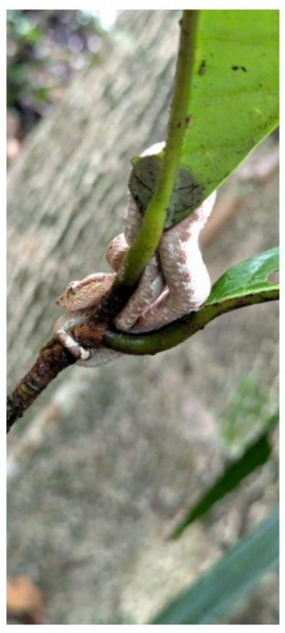
These swamps, which mostly occur along the "upper reaches of river systems within wet evergreen forest watersheds" and rely on "monsoon rainfall and seasonal flooding to sustain their unique hydrological cycle," are named after the dominant trees in this landscape, which belong to the Myristica or nutmeg family, one of the oldest flowering plant groups in the world. "The exact dating of these landscapes hasn't been done yet, but fossils resembling the Myristica seeds and leaves have been found dating back to the Early Cretaceous period," she says, referring to a period around 145 to 100.5 million years ago, when the earth's landmass was still only two continents, Gondwana and Laurasia, with dinosaurs roaming across them.

While there are five species of Myristica trees found in the Western Ghats today, not all of them are adapted to be in swamp conditions, she says. "Some are found in upland forests, but there are two species, *Gymnacranthera canarica* and *Myristica fatua*, which have evolved to have knee and stilt roots. This allows them to breathe in waterlogged conditions," she says, adding that these trees also have lenticels or small pores on the surface of their roots to further help with respiration.

Multiple species

In addition to these trees, the Myristica swamps, which are found scattered across Karnataka, Kerala, Goa and Maharashtra, are home to many other forms of plant life, with around 90 species of herbaceous plants, 46 species of shrubs, 27 species of climbers and lianas and 80 species of trees, states *The Dark Forest*. It also supports a wide variety of animals, many of which are endemic to the Western Ghats, such as the lion-tailed macaque, Malabar giant squirrel, the rare Myristica Bambootail dam-selfly only found in these swamps, the critically endangered Kottigehar dancing frog and the Malabar grey hornbill. Also, "apart from being hotspots of unique biodiversity in the Western Ghats, Myristica swamps also provide various ecosystem services to local communities living near them," explains Priya.

Not only do the swamps replenish the groundwater table and retain surface water and help regulate air temperature even during the summer months, but also, "much like other wetlands, they prevent downstream flooding by slowing the flow of water and allowing it to infiltrate into their soils," she says. Some swamps also have immense cultural significance, serving as sacred sites for local communities who guard and look after them because of this. "Deities such as Chowdamma (the water goddess) and Hulidevaru (the tiger god) are worshipped in the form of stone statues placed within the dark swamp forests in Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka," says Priya.



A Malabar pit viper coils around a sapling, awaiting potential prey. PRIYA RANGANATHAN

Some swamps are sacred groves where people have worshipped for generations, helping preserve these spaces. PRIYA RANGANATHAN

Despite the uniqueness and importance of these Myristica swamps, not enough attention has been paid to them, unlike coastal wetlands like mangroves, whose role in coastal protection, biodiversity support and ecosystem services is much better known. "The reason we talk so much about mangroves is that they are easily accessible," she says.

Besides being poorly understood, or perhaps because they are so poorly understood, Myristica swamps are under threat due to the ongoing climate crisis, which leads to rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, as well as human activities, she says.

"In Uttara Kannada, the biggest threat is areca nut plantations and paddy fields, both water-intensive crops."

Since these Myristica swamps offer a sustained water source, even during the dry months, people sometimes encroach and plant crops in and around them, destroying the ecosystem.

"Another issue is of people extracting water from the swamp," she says. "That changes the growth of the seeds and seedlings. Older trees may survive without much water, but the young, growing seedlings are badly affected."

Priya Ranganathan

Meera Phadnis

While the Karnataka Forest Department has been actively working on restoring and raising awareness about swamps, they continue to be managed as forests, a classification that, in Priya's opinion, needs to be changed for better conservation strategies.

"A swamp is a wetland and not just a forest. Water is what rules in a swamp; it is not just about trees being present," she says. "I feel that, in order to successfully conserve swamps and market them as unique systems to people, you need to market them as wetlands, not forests."

Awareness first

Priya says that the kernel of the idea for *The Dark Forest* first cropped up around 2022, when she received her first fieldwork grant. "As part of fieldwork, we have a lot of outreach components in these grants, and I had to come up with outreach material and do some workshops in local schools in the landscape," she says. Since she is not a native speaker of Kannada, she started relying a lot on visual cues, "something creative that would bond them to the system without having to rely on my poor diction and vocabulary," says Priya.

To do that more effectively, she reached out to her cousin, Meera Phadnis, "a talented artist," to help create a series of illustrations that could be made into posters. "Whenever we went to these schools, this would be tacked up, and the kids would come and admire it. I was really happy to see how much they loved them."

This got her thinking about the illustrated story books she read as a child, she says, recalling "the old world charm, the bright colours and the authenticity" of those books. And since she was writing many articles about the Myristica swamps at that time anyway, she thought she could come up with a little book as an outreach component.

Charming illustrations

The Dark Forest, interspersed with Meera's charming illustrations of these mist-swamped ancient wetlands and the plants and animals that live in them, offers both a broad overview of these ecosystems and functions as a field guide.

Around 100 copies of the book, which came out in March this year and has been supported by a CSR donation to ATREE by Rubrik India Private Limited, have already been printed.

"Since we did it under a grant, we wanted to get out the first hundred copies to people, and the response has been really good," says Priya, who is now actively looking for a publisher to get more copies out to the general public and spread the word. "I want people who've never seen a swamp to feel a connection to this mysterious, remote ecosystem in the forest, which they may never see in their lives."

To know more or buy a copy of the book, email rpriya.ecology@gmail.com or contact @theswampstory on Instagram

NITK presents silver rings to 2,015 students

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, on Thursday, held a ceremony to present silver rings to 2,015 students who graduated from the institute.

The rings engraved with NITK emblem and year of graduation were presented to 949 B.Tech graduates, 653 M.Tech, 68 MCA, 69 MBA, 35 MSc Physics, 34 MSc Chemistry, 51 MTech Research and 156 PhD holders.

B.Tech Mining student Sai Priya was given a gold medal as a best outgoing student, while BTech Mining students Soumi Ganguly and Diviz Akkshat received gold and silver medals respectively for their academic achievements.

In a press release, the institute said the tradition of giving rings to outgoing students was started in the institute 50 years ago.

The ring not just connects graduates with the institute but also unites NITKias world wide, the release stated.

NITK director B. Ravi and President of the NITK Alumni Association Niranjan Mahabaappa participated in the function.

SolveCon brings together youth voice, action, impact

Sixth edition of the conclave sees youngsters participating in multiple activities from hands-on games to problem-solving

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Creative Circus witnessed a day of collaboration, play and civic innovation as SolveCon 2025, hosted by Reap Benefit – a social enterprise that works with youngsters – brought together over 300 spirited youth. The sixth edition of SolveCon saw youngsters participating in multiple activities from hands-on games to reflection and problem-solving.

A mela of action

The 'phone-free' day kicked off with a high-energy 'mela' featuring 14 impactful organisations presenting playful, hands-on experiences on climate action, civic participation, social justice, and local governance.

Youth engaged in interactive games, simulations, and storytelling that sparked awareness and empathy. Participating organisations included Mercy Mission, Terrum, Jhatkaa, Quest Alliance, Bannada Dara, Avarna, The Maitri Arha Foundation, Defy Project, Selco Foundation, Momentum Shifts, and Dream A Dream.

Participating organisations included Mercy Mission, Terrum, Jhatkaa, Quest Alliance, Bannada Dara, Avarna, The Maitri Arha Foundation, Defy Project, Selco Foundation, Momentum Shifts, and Dream A Dream. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Since its inception in 2024, SolveCon has engaged over 800 youths across cities like Jalandhar, Mysuru, Nanded, Ludhiana, and Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At the heart of SolveCon were the voices of Kuppendra S, Aakash Kudla, Aishwarya Selvam, and Shiva Kumar, who turned local challenges into bold action.

Kuppendra.S from Raichur tackles plastic waste, advocates for migrant workers, and engages directly with policymakers.

Aakash Kudla from Mangaluru, founder of Avarana, upcycles glass waste into home décor. His work has reached more than 50 homes saving over 860 kg of waste.

Aishwarya Selvam from Bengaluru led a massive cleanup drive, uniting students, citizens, and BBMP workers to reclaim public spaces.

Shiva Kumar from Bengaluru works towards empowering the LGBTQ+ community through legal aid and inclusive entrepreneurship.

SolveCon's 'Solver Jams,' led by expert facilitators, offered hands-on learning covering topics such as eco-anxiety, historical simulations, data-driven change, systems thinking, and grassroots marketing. These labs, facilitated by Namya Sinha, Abhijit Giridhar, Arpit Arora, Apoorv Anand, Gauthamraj Elango, Subhani Nadaf and Praveen Kasmas, blended play, empathy, and real-world problem solving to help the participants think critically and act locally.

"SolveCon is a glimpse into the future we're building with young people at the centre," said Kuldeep Dantewadia, Founder of Reap Benefit. "Our mission through SolveCon is not to teach agency but to unlock it," he added.

Since its inception in 2024, SolveCon has engaged over 800 youth across cities like Jalandhar, Mysuru, Nanded, Ludhiana, and Bengaluru.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 18, 1975

Suggestion to Turn over BTS to City Corpn.

Bangalore, April 17: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Karnataka Legislature has recommended to the Government to examine the possibility and practicability of handing over the Bangalore Transport Services of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation to the City Municipal Corporation.

The Committee has referred to the continuous loss incurred by the BTS (provisionally placed at 55 lakh during 1973-74) and to the subsidy from out of the revenues earned in mofussil services. The KSRTC has told the Municipal Corporation of Bangalore, which should ensure good transport services to the citizens within its limits, that it should pay a subsidy towards the operational cost of the BTS so that adequate services with less loss could be provided.

BGML Workers Turn Down Offer of Management

Kolar Gold Fields, April 17: The strike by the 12,000 workers of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited entered its 18th day today, with no solution in sight. The workers are demanding, among other things, a minimum wage of Rs. 350 and Rs. 375 for the surface and underground workers, respectively, as against Rs 188 and Rs 193 being paid at present.

The management and the Central Conciliation Machinery were expecting the labour representatives to return to the negotiating table yesterday, but the labour leaders did not turn up, having turned down the management's offer, according to a special bulletin of BGML.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

One of five textile products to get GI tag

The Pattedanchu sari has obtained the Geographical Indication recognition. This is the first such product registered this year, the fifth textile item in Karnataka to get the tag, and the 48th product to be recognised from the State. Four of these have received joint recognition with other States, like Malabar coffee and Kolhapuri Chappals.

U.P. has the highest number of GI products

The GI-tagged textile products are Ilkal Saris, Guledagudda Khana, Molakalmuru Saris and Udupi Saris. Most of the GI products from the State are agricultural ones and handicrafts. Karnataka is among the States with the highest number of GI products. A total of 605 products have obtained the tag across India. Uttar Pradesh tops the list, at 75.

The objective of giving GI tag

A GI registration certifies a product's origin-linked uniqueness. Examples include Mysore Silk and Kinnal toys. It is granted by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks and GI. It is aimed at safeguarding traditional knowledge, preventing fakes, and boosting local economies by creating or expanding markets for authentic regional products.

Has GI tag really helped artisans?

Karnataka's artisans, including those involved in creating Bidri handicrafts, and the Ilkal sari makers, say they have not benefited much. There is no offline or online organised market for GI tags. There is no evidence of an expansion of the market or increased profits to artisans, they say. Lack of awareness is one of the reasons for it.

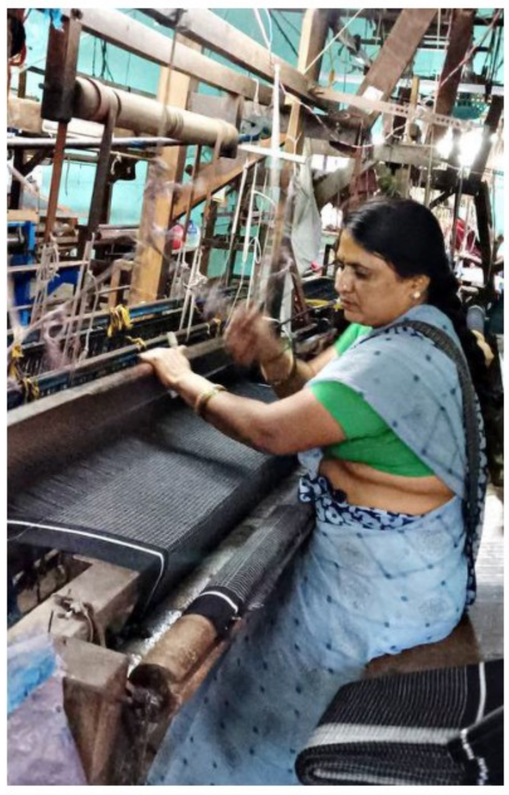
Initiative to boost GI products market

Mysore Sales International Limited is planning to provide an online platform for the sale of GI tagged products. The body is developing a portal to facilitate public procurements. It will also have a business to consumer section that will include GI tagged products there. MSIL, in fact, plans to give GI-tagged products priority in this online marketing initiative, say officials.

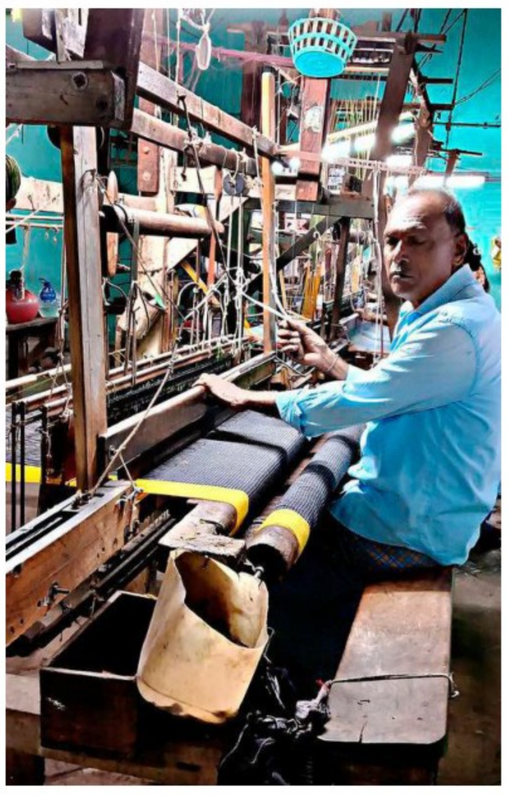
Patteda Anchu saris: GI tag brings hope, but weavers need more to sustain tradition

The colourful and durable Patteda Anchu saris of Gajendragad recently got the Geographical Indication tag

Patteda Anchu saris are produced by individuals, and members of cooperative societies and groups in and around Gajendragad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



The hand-woven cotton textile is known for its bright colours and simple design. Its name comes from its large borders and chequered patterns. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



On average, Gajendragad Weavers Cooperative Producers' Society produces around 9,500 saris of around 38 patterns. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The cooperative society will work with the Karnataka Handloom Technology Institute to check the quality of the saris and to detect fakes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

The Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks and Geographical Indications granted the long-awaited 'GI' recognition to the Patteda Anchu sari from Gajendragad in Gadag district in North Karnataka in March.

This traditional hand-woven cotton textile with natural colours is known for its bright colours and simple design. It earned its name from its large borders and chequered patterns.

It is the daily wear of farm labourers and weavers in the region, known as 'rough use sari', made of coarse cotton fibre that can be easily washed and dried at home. Only yellow, blue, pink, green and maroon colours are used for dying.

Black and grey are not used as they are considered "inauspicious". The sap of plants, like ladies finger, acasia gum and a light coloured mud found along village tanks, is used as the base for preparing the colours of these saris.

"Patteda Anchu saris are produced by individuals, and members of cooperative societies and groups in and around Gajendragad. The sari weaving tradition is unique because weavers do it sitting in kuni looms, dug into the earth.

It is part of the living tradition in weaving, and is at least 500 years old," said N. Gopikrishna, a handicrafts promoter.

Weavers happy

"We are happy to get the GI certificate as we believe it will protect our craft in future," Maruti Shabadi, secretary of the Gajendragad Weavers' Cooperative Producers' Society, told *The Hindu*.

The first application was filed in 2019, as the society wanted to fight against the rising trend of mass produced power loom saris.

The society, established in 1944, has 1,127 members of which 137 members transact regularly, by buying raw material and selling saris to the society. It employs around 30 weavers, who are paid around ₹200 per sari. The society sells saris in the range of ₹700-₹1,000. The society produces around 25 saris per day.

"On average, the society produces around 9,500 saris of around 38 patterns. They are sold to wholesalers who, in turn, sell them to consumers in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Delhi. The society is considering launching its own e-commerce website," Shabadi said.

Benefits of GI tag

"Textile Department officials have assured us that it will act like a patent and protect our knowledge base. Officials have assured us that they will issue notices to people who try to copy our design or produce fake Patteda Anchu saris in power looms," Shabadi said.

According to him, faculty members of the M.S. Ramaiah Law College and the Ramaiah Centre for Intellectual Property Rights provided assistance to members of the cooperative society to present their case before the GI commissionerate. Officers of the Commissionerate of Textile Development, and Director of Handlooms and the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre coordinated the movement of the application. A team led by Sangeeta M.S., a professor of law, visited the society, stayed in Gajendragad for a few days and documented their work by taking pictures and videos. "They did most of the paperwork. We went to Bengaluru whenever we were called," Shabadi said. He said that the society would work with the Karnataka Handloom Technology Institute in Gadag, which would set up a laboratory to check the quality of the saris and to detect fakes.

Five textile products from Karnataka

Of the 48 GI tagged products of Karnataka, only five are in textiles. They include the Ilkal Sari, Molkalmuru Sari, Guledgudda Khana and Udupi sari, along with the Patteda Anchu sari. However, weavers say the number of GI products should increase to protect their craft.

Gurulingappa Gombi, secretary of the Hatagar Nekar Samaj, says that for every one product that has got a GI tag, 10 have been left out. "Products like the cardamom garland from Haveri, Kala Bhat rice from Khanapur, small brinjal from Hukkeri, and Dyamanur Chilli from Kundgol deserve to be included in the list," he said. He wants the government to set up exclusive GI shops in districts and taluks, and to issue an order that GI products be given as gifts in government functions, instead of bouquets and shawls.He felt that the GI tag had not had any visible positive effect on weavers or craftsmen. "The sale of Channapattana toys or Mysore Ganjifa cards may have gone up as the products are available in big cities like Bengaluru and Mysuru. But the situation of rural artisans is very different. There has been no automatic expansion of the market or tourist footfalls due to the GI tags," Gombi said.

The State government has been urged to set up exclusive GI shops in districts and taluks, and issue an order that GI products be given as gifts at government functions, instead of bouquets and shawls. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

More awareness

Ravi Patil, president of the Belagavi District Weavers' Association, said there is a need for a higher level of awareness about such facilities. "The skills of rural weavers and handicrafts persons are so diverse that each district or each taluk in northern Karnataka has a distinct type or design of saris. Most of them are being made by power looms now. They need to be protected by GI tags or other measures. Nine out of 10 weavers are unaware of what GI tags are or their benefits.

The government should not only conduct awareness camps for weavers and handicrafts persons, but also support groups of skilled workers with legal support and funds to apply for GI tags,'' Patil said.

According to him, among the problems faced by weavers is lack of access to easy credit, un-interrupted raw material supply, lack of a platform for reaching to retail customers, and absence of compensation in times of natural disasters.

Gajanan Gunjeri, founder of Karnataka Weavers' Welfare Association, demanded that the State government shift the Commissionerate of Textile Development to the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi, so that the issues of weavers are resolved locally. "We have been fighting for this for years, but successive governments have ignored it," he said.

MSIL's plans might help

A solution seems to be in sight.

Manoj Kumar, Managing Director, Mysore Sales International Limited, said the State government is planning to provide an online platform for the sale of GI-tagged products.

"We are developing a portal to facilitate public procurement. It will also have a business-to-consumer section. We are including GI-tagged products there. GI-tagged products will be our priority," Kumar said.

Details on GI tag can be obtained from the website of the India Patents Office.

INBRIEF

CM seeks JICA's assistance for metro rail-II, Musi projects

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has sought the assistance of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in taking up the second phase of the metro rail project.

The Chief Minister, who met top management of JICA in Tokyo on Thursday, explained that the Telangana government planned to take up the Metro Rail Phase-II with an investment of ₹ 24,269 crore as a joint venture project between the State and Central governments.

A.P. Police place former TTD chairman under house arrest

The Andhra Pradesh Police on Thursday placed former TTD chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy under house arrest. The move followed Mr. Reddy's acceptance of the challenge thrown by TDP State president Palla Srinivas to visit the TTD's dairy farm to prove his charges. Mr. Reddy had earlier made serious allegations on the reported death of over 100 cows in the dairy farm due to "negligence" of the staff, which caused a furore in the TTD circles.

Modi to inaugurate Vizhinjam international seaport on May 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the Vizhinjam international seaport on May 2. Governor Rajendra Arlekar and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will attend the function with other dignitaries. Official sources said the Prime Minister's Office had sent a letter to the Kerala government confirming Mr. Modi's visit. The State police are preparing a comprehensive security scheme with the Prime Minister' Special Protection Group concerning this.

A.P. promulgates Ordinance on sub-classification of SCs

Govt. seeks to provide a legal framework to classify the communities into three sub-groups based on their population, backwardness, and social cohesion to address disparities in representation

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra submitting a report recommending the sub-classification to K. Vijayanand, A.P. Chief Secretary, in March.

The Andhra Pradesh government has promulgated the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Ordinance, 2025, marking a decisive step towards categorising the Scheduled Castes (SCs) into sub-groups for targeted welfare delivery.

Issued under G.O. MS No. 19 by the Law Department, the Ordinance had been signed by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer on Wednesday and was subsequently published in the State Gazette on Thursday.

The Ordinance, designated as Andhra Pradesh Ordinance No. 2 of 2025, seeks to provide a legal framework to classify the SC communities into three sub-groups to address disparities in representation and access to welfare schemes. In order to ensure integrated and equitable progress among the various sub-castes within the Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh, the State government promulgated the Ordinance proposed by the Social Welfare Department.

As part of the initiative, the 59 Scheduled Castes in the State had been classified into three categories based on their population, backwardness, and social cohesion.

Roster system

The percentage of reservation for each of these three categories had also been determined. A 200-point roster system would be followed for the sub-categorisation. It would function in two cycles (each from points 1 to 100).

There will be 12 sub-castes in Group-I with 1% reservation. Group-II will have 18 sub-castes with 6.5% reservation and Group-III will have 29 sub-castes with 7.5% reservation.

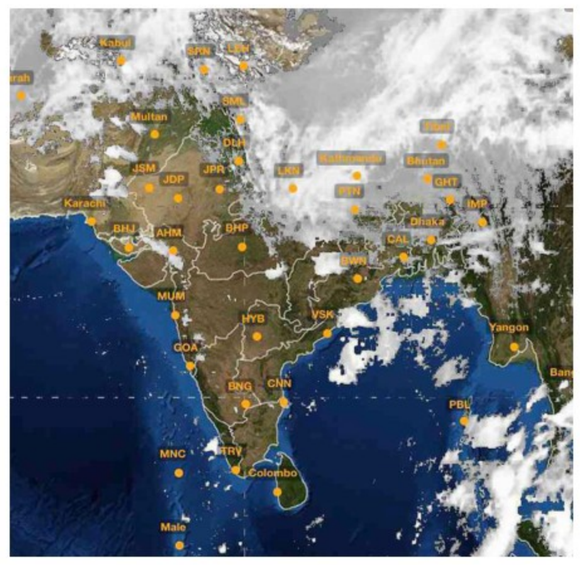
The government believes that the Ordinance will ensure fair and equal access to educational and employment opportunities for all groups within the SCs, thereby fulfilling the constitutional objectives and ensuring collective development.

Earlier, the government had constituted a one-man commission headed by retired IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, which suggested sub-classification.

The Ordinance would be implemented across all the 26 districts of the State.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	29	31.0	21.6	Kozhikode	—	36.7	28.0
Ahmedabad	—	41.8	25.9	Kurnool	—	39.4	27.8
Aizawl	19.2	29.6	16.5	Lucknow	—	38.5	24.1
Allahabad	—	41.0	23.2	Madurai	—	39.0	26.5
Bengaluru	9	32.5	20.4	Mangaluru	—	33.0	26.1
Bhopal	—	41.1	23.4	Mumbai	—	32.8	24.4
Bhubaneswar	—	35.8	25.6	Mysuru	—	35.0	18.0
Chandigarh	8	37.0	20.4	New Delhi	—	40.6	25.7
Chennai	—	36.0	27.6	Patna	—	35.6	27.0
Coimbatore	—	35.2	25.2	Port Blair	—	31.5	25.7
Dehradun	10	34.6	18.7	Puducherry	—	34.0	27.2
Gangtok	31	21.5	13.5	Pune	—	43.1	23.7
Goa	—	35.0	28.0	Raipur	—	39.2	26.2
Guwahati	3	29.0	21.9	Ranchi	—	34.1	21.6
Hubballi	—	39.0	23.0	Shillong	22	20.3	14.4
Hyderabad	—	36.4	25.1	Shimla	—	28.0	12.4
Imphal	—	27.5	20.0	Srinagar	18	21.5	10.8
Jaipur	—	42.2	27.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.5	27.1
Kochi	1	33.0	26.4	Tiruchi	—	38.1	26.4
Kohima	7	22.9	14.3	Vijayawada	—	37.2	26.6
Kolkata	0.2	35.6	26.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.2	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.20	.28	.20	...143	...122	
Bengaluru	..—	..33	.33	...143	95	
Chennai	.13	..13	136	50	44	
Delhi	.18	102	.45	...228	...187	
Hyderabad	.10	..25	.43	90	84	
Kolkata	...8	..20	.25	73	75	
Lucknow	...9	..70	.46	...148	...147	
Mumbai	.12	..33	.80	30	48	
Pune	.48	..12	106	...279	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..—	...7	60	...106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 297 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kashappanavar is chairman of Panchamasali trust

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Amid the imbroglio within the community over Lingayat Panchamasali seer Basava Jaya Mrutunjya Swami's open support to expelled BJP leader Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, former legislator Vijayanand Kashappanavar has been named as the new chairman of the Akhila Bharat Lingayat Panchamasali Samaj Trust.

Members of the trust and senior leaders of the community who met in Hubballi on Thursday accepted the resignation of incumbent chairman Prabhanna Hunasikatti and unanimously elected Mr. Kashappanavar as the chairman.

Mr. Kashappanavar was openly critical of the Panchamasali seer Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami's stand on 2D reservation and had distanced himself from Panchamasali movement for reservation subsequently. The trust members' decision to choose him seems to send a clear signal to the seer, who has been defending his stand on Mr Yatnal's expulsion.

During the meeting, Neelakanth Asuti was chosen as general secretary, Rajashekhar Menasinakai as working president, and Prabhanna Hunasikatti as honorary president. In the meeting chaired by senior trustee S.D. Kolli, the meeting resolved to dissolve all the previously constituted committees of the Panchamasali Samaj Trust and took decisions on various issues concerning the community.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender No. SBC-GSU-ENGG-2025-01
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Construction of ROB with limited height subway (LHS) at Km:259/900-260/000 in lieu of LC No.103 at Gudupalle between Bangarpet - Kuppam Section.	Rs. 22,04,27,053.27

Last Date & Time for submission of Tender **Upto 11:00 hrs on 02-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Bengaluru
PUB/48/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No. 32MECHBULKRSP1000WAGONHPT
Dated : 07-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Outsourcing of ROH Schedule of 1000 wagons at Hosapete/ Depot for a period of One year.	Rs. 1,59,74,740.30

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 28-04-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/Co-Ord Hubballi
PUB/36/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/TZ/Mys/SEE(O)/AEE-3/Shift/24-25/304 Date: 15.04.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)
KPTCL invites bids against **Bid Enquiry No.**KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2024-25/659, dated: 04.03.2025 for **Hiring on Outsource services of 02 Nos of drivers for 02 Nos of LM Vehicles for various offices coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Mysuru. Call-2.**
The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the kpp portal can be obtained by logging into KPTCL **website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.04.2025**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, N. R. Mohalla, Mysuru.

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Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
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THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

KSSIDC KARNATAKA STATE SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer, Head Office, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-10.
Telephone: 080-2340 7011 to 25, E-mail : kssidcho@gmail.com / chiefengineerkssidc@gmail.com, Website:www.kssidc.co.in
No.Eng/ep-95/SE/PPP-3rd Call/2025-26 Dt: 17.04.2025
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
SHORT NOTICE INVITING-TENDER (Two Tender Document System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)
On behalf of Managing Director, Superintending Engineer Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (KSSIDC) invites e-bids (proposal) from the interested Infrastructure Development Department Karnataka (IDD) empanelled agencies for the following work detailed in the table below. The e-bid document and other relevant details are available at Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No	Name of the work	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	**Tender No. : KSSIDC/2025-26/SE0022** "Selection of IDD Empaneled Transaction Advisor for Providing Advisory Services For Development Of Land Parcels At Various Locations of KSSIDC estates, Karnataka on PPP Mode". (Call-3)	10.00

Tender shall be submitted along with EMD, for tender documents and may get more information by login to e-procurement website **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** (Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation Limited) through e-procurement portal. The document may be downloaded from **17.04.2025, 17.00 hours onwards.**
Calendar of Events
- Availability of Tender Document from: **17.04.2025, 17.00 hrs. onwards.**
- Last date for receiving queries / clarifications: **24.04.2025 upto 17.00 hrs.**
- Date of Pre bid Meeting: **25.04.2025 at 12.00 hrs.**
- Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **08.05.2025 upto 17.00 hrs.**
- Date of Opening of Technical electronic Document first: **12-05-2025 after 11.00 hrs onwards.**
- Date of Opening of Financial electronic document second will be **after Approval of Technical Electronic document First through e-Procurement.**
- For further details, contact office of the undersigned during office. hours.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/CP/JA/253/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–02/ಜೆಇ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 15.04.2025
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–02/ಜೆಇ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.04.2025.
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ **ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ :4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಅಡಿ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಾಂಡೋಮಟ್ಟಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಗೋಪ್ಪೆನಹಳ್ಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT17013) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 400.00 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.05.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 03.05.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/27/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (MECH.), ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE,
CENTRAL WORKSHOP, RASULGARH,BHUBANESWAR -751010 (ODISHA)
Tel- 0674: 2580896, E-mail: gmerectionocc@gmail.com
(GSTIN-21AAACO2571K2ZM)
"e" - Procurement Notice No. 01 /OCCL/2025-26 (on-line)
Type of work : "Replacement of Vertical Lift Gates in bay No.1,2,8 &9 by dismantling, erection, commissioning & testing, construction of extra bay, erection, commissioning & testing of Stoplog, Monorail structure, Monorail hoist, walkway including painting and 2nd stage embedded parts erection & concreting of Malaguni Barrage near Rameswaram in Tangi Block of Khurda Dist and direction of the Engineer-in-Charge."
Total No. of work : 01(one).
Period of completion : 180 (One hundred eighty) days.

Tendering Officer	Bid Identification No.	Cost of Tender document (Including GST) through on-line transfer system	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Bid (On-line)
General Manager (Mech.), Erection and Maintenance, OCC Ltd., Central Workshop, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar	OCCL-G.M./ E&M/ 01/2025-26	Rs.11,800.00 (Non-refundable)	17.04.2025, 10.00 AM to 02.05.2025, 5.00 PM	17.04.2025, 10.00 AM to 02.05.2025, 5.00 PM

Date of opening of Bid : 03.05.2025 at 11.30 A.M. Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Amendment/corrigendum/cancellation, if any shall be posted on-line only.
General Manager (Mech.), Erection and Maintenance, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar
CAD-153 OIPR-34163/11/0062/2526

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PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is hereby given to the public that my client **Mrs. Kavitha Bothra** is the owner of the **Flat No F-803** in springfields, situated at, Sy.19 & 20 Ambalipura village Varthur Hobli Bangalore East Taluk.
The original absolute Sale deed of the above mentioned Flat, was lost during the period 08/02/2025 to 04/04/2025 & is not traceable & consequently, a police complaint has been lodged in this regard with Bangalore city Police station Bengaluru on 04/04/2025 by the owner.
Any person or persons finding the documents or asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the schedule property or against the owners should write to the under signed within **10 days** from the date of issuance of this Notice with all documentary proof, on which they are basing and asserting their rights, with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof, after which period it will be treated that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY
Flat No: F-803, 2 bed rooms 1140 sq.ft. SBA on the Eighth floor of the F- Block Springfields Apt. built at Sy. Nos.19 &20 Ambalipura village Varthur Hobli Bangalore East Taluk Bangalore with 1 car parking basement.
T. NARAYANA SHETTY, ADVOCATE
B-002 Springfields, Sarjapur Rd B'lore-560102
(M): 99451-89508

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN : U31401KA2002SGC030437)
Corporate Office, Navanagar, P. B. Road, Hubballi - 580 025. Phone : 0836 - 2322771, 2324307.
E-mail : seeit@hescom.co.in
No. : H.E.S.COM/S.E.E.(IT&MT)/IT1/SM/1291/2025-26/CYS-575
Date : 17-04-2025
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) Only)
The Superintending Engineer (Ele), IT & MT, HESCOM, Hubballi invites Short Term Tender in Two Parts **(Part - I : Techno - Commercial Bid and Part - II : Price Bid)** through E-procurement portal for the following works.
1) Bid Indent No. : HESCOM/2024-25/SE0369/CALL-2, Tender Description : Selection of Vendor for Opening Retail Outlets for Sale of Smart Meters on Rate Contract Basis to the Prospective Consumers for arranging Power Supply to New Connections (including Temporary Connections) for a period of 05 years in HESCOM Jurisdiction.
For detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by the **Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (El), IT & MT, HESCOM, Hubballi.
DIPR/Dharwad/62/Manipal/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation and Ground water development Divison, Mandya
E mail: eemimandya@gmail.com
No:EE:MID/MDY/TA/AE/TB/2025-26:579 Date:15.04.2025
SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 01/2025-26, Dated : 15-04-2025
Item wise Tenders are invited from registered and eligible contractors under " KPP " Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender bid documents KW-3 & KW-4. Under the Head of Account 4702-Anecut & Pickups & 4711- Flood Protection Works there are 05 No's of works, Estimate amount ranging from Minimum of Rs. 30.00 Lakhs to Maximum of Rs. 430.00 Lakhs. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office upto dated : 06-05-2025 during Working hours. The tenders may be uploaded (Technical and Financial bids to be uploaded separately) with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website " www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in " upto dated : 08-05-2025 up to 17-30 Hours. Technical bids of the bidders will be opened on 09-05-2025 at 17-30 Hours. Financial bids of the bidders will be opened on 12-05-2025 at 17-30 Hours.
Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all works or any of the work of this tender by the under signed. Terms and conditions required for the each work is published in the " kppp " Tender Portal. Any additional information is available at the office of the undersigned. Any corrections regarding the works will be published in " kpp " portal only.
Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mandya.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/029/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DIVISION KOPPAL. Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com
IFT No. PWD:DK:DB:KW-4:2025-26/168 Date: 15-04-2025.
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-4 on **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. **Head of Account : 5054-MDR Improvement/2024-25.** Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** 01 Work (Work Indent No: 18171/ CALL-3). Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **02-05-2025 Time 13.00,** Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **03-05-2025 Time 13.30**. Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **05-05-2025 Time 13.00.** Estimate Maximum Amount Rs. 400.00 Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification, for reservation of category & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.
DIPR/Koppal/32/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal**

Power and agenda

A joint plan of action, not a coalition government, should be priority

AIADMK general secretary and former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami's assertion that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while in Chennai last week, did not talk of power sharing in the event of the victory of the newly stitched AIADMK-BJP alliance in the 2026 Assembly election, is not surprising given the State's contemporary political history. Tamil Nadu is not known to have multi-party regimes. It did not have such an arrangement even in 1952 and 2006 when the Assembly elections did not produce a single-party majority. Even in June 1980, political observers were stunned by the decisive vote in favour of the AIADMK and the rejection of the DMK-Congress combine, which had agreed on sharing power. The AIADMK's victory was considered to be sensational because in January that year, it had bagged only two Lok Sabha constituencies as against the 37 seats for the DMK-Congress coalition. An explanation was that even though the DMK-Congress front had proposed a coalition ministry, it was an idea that did not go down well with the voter. Since then, the two Dravidian majors have shunned the idea of a coalition government. However, what is inexplicable is the AIADMK chief taking almost a week to clarify the party's position, even though he was a part of Mr. Shah's media meet in Chennai. Mr. Shah had said that the issue of the BJP becoming a part of the ministry would be decided after the election. On two earlier occasions including one after his meeting with Mr. Palaniswami in New Delhi last month, Mr. Shah had referred to the nomenclature of the National Democratic Alliance.

The Congress, which lost power in the State in 1967, has also expressed its desire on several occasions to have a share in power. In 2006, when the DMK regime was dependent on the Congress for a majority, former chief of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee E.V.K.S. Elangovan ruffled the DMK's feathers by demanding a slice of the cake. It is natural that the BJP, which for the first time in Tamil Nadu, saw an improved vote share in the 2024 general election, of 11.4%, without the support of either Dravidian major, is now keen to share power. It is also likely that it might want the AIADMK to follow the example set by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Despite a majority of 135 seats in the 2024 Assembly election, the TDP accommodated the BJP and the Jana Sena Party in the State Cabinet. Apart from the two national parties, the Pattali Makkal Katchi and the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, in Tamil Nadu, are known advocates of the concept of power sharing. The AIADMK and the BJP should focus on a credible alternative plan of action such as addressing the State's chronic problems and livelihood issues before talking about sharing power. Power is a tool of politics, and not its ultimate goal.

Life unknown

The cosmos holds limitless mysteries for the constrained human mind

The University of Cambridge issued a press release regarding a paper coauthored by one of its scientists that reported an exoplanet called K2-18b may be habitable, with the misleading headline, "Strongest hints yet of biological activity outside the solar system". The paper, published on April 17, made headlines because astronomers have been interested for some time in this exoplanet's peculiar surface physiochemistry. The paper is to its credit sedate in its prognostications: the authors have reported detecting the presence of dimethyl sulphide or dimethyl disulphide in K2-18b's atmosphere; the former is considered a sign of life on the earth and could be on the exoplanet. Independent scientists and the paper's authors have called for dispassionate efforts to refine the data and reduce uncertainties as well as to double-check the implications. If the history of the search for biomarkers on other planets both within and without the solar system is any guide, there is no guarantee that the findings will not be overturned. The cosmos still harbours too many mysteries for us to not be surprised by new information awaiting discovery. Research of this nature – initiated by curiosity and a pursuit of the unknown – has sometimes been overtaken by hype. Unfortunately, it faces another threat today: funding cuts of the type U.S. President Donald Trump has unleashed in his country.

After downsizing or cancelling grants issued via the National Institutes of Health, Mr. Trump began holding entire universities hostage: drawdown DEI initiatives and rein in student protests or forgo federal funding, he seemed to say. The institutions affected count some of the world's best in their ranks and the funding withheld, a non-trivial fraction of that spent on certain subjects worldwide. Earlier this month, the White House's budget proposal for the 2026 fiscal revealed its plans to cut National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funding by 27%, nix most spending for science at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and halve NASA's earth-science budget. The essential programme is to control the practice and pursuit of science that does not align with Republican state ideology. Curiosity-driven research, such as that concerned with the possibility of extraterrestrial life, both proves universities' freedom to explore the unknown and fulfils the innate curiosity of humankind. However, the Trump government's policies leave whatever research freedom that remains very precious yet also more vulnerable to misinformation and ideological capture, and the world itself more short-sighted.

Trumponomics deserves to be taken seriously

T.T. Ram Mohan

is a former Professor at IIM Ahmedabad

"To me," United States President Donald Trump has famously said, "tariff is the most beautiful word in the dictionary". Mr Trump has shown that he means it. By imposing tariffs of varying degrees on a wide range of countries, he has initiated a trade war, the likes of which the world has not seen since the Second World War.

Following turbulence in the American bond market, Mr. Trump has announced a 90-day pause on tariffs on all countries except China. Hardly anybody thinks that Mr Trump will back off from tariffs for fear of visiting serious dislocation on the U.S. economy and the world at large. Trumponomics is a mission to fundamentally remake the American economy. It deserves to be taken seriously if only because the world will need to adjust to it.

First, the propositions

Trumponomics rests on a few key propositions. The first is that America needs to bring back manufacturing, lost to China and other economies over the past several decades. It needs to do so for several reasons.

Globalisation and the offshoring of manufacturing in the U.S. have meant the loss of millions of jobs. Estimates of jobs losses in manufacturing vary. Stephen Miran, Chair, Council of Economic Advisers, The White House, cites a study that estimates jobs lost in manufacturing between 2000 and 2011 at two million (Stephen Miran, *A User's Guide to Restructuring the Global Trading System*). Robert E. Lighthizer, who was the U.S. Trade Representative in Mr. Trump's first term, says five million manufacturing jobs were lost in the period 2000-09.

Job losses have been concentrated in particular areas. Thriving industrial centres have been reduced to ghost towns and whole communities hollowed out. There are other social costs: homelessness, rising crime, drug abuse, and broken families. America's services sector has absorbed a portion of those who lost jobs in manufacturing. But these are low-wage jobs. For the vast majority of American adults, manufacturing remains the sole route to a high-wage job.

Trumponomics argues that America also needs manufacturing for the purpose of national security. It cannot afford to have its defence sector rely heavily on imports of steel, aluminium, and semi-conductors. In a crisis, American military capabilities could be seriously compromised. As Mr. Trump puts it, "If you don't have steel, you don't have a country".

A second key proposition of Trumponomics is that free trade is not necessarily fair trade. Imports from China are cheaper because China provides subsidies to its firms in various forms, uses slave labour to drive down costs, invests funds in state-owned technology companies, and indulges in industrial espionage and theft of intellectual property. It makes no sense to have American companies wiped out by competitors that do not adhere to the rules of a free market economy.

The third proposition is that America's chronic trade deficits are unaffordable as the flip side is foreigners using their trade surpluses to acquire more and more American assets. In recent years, trade deficits have been of the order of $500 billion to $1 trillion a year.

Trade deficits are said to be self-correcting. When a country runs a trade deficit, the exchange rate of its currency is expected to depreciate. Exports will then rise and imports will fall, leading to a reduction in the trade deficit. Mr. Miran argues that the principle does not apply to the U.S. economy because the dollar happens to be the world's reserve currency. Nations park much of their foreign exchange reserves in U.S. government securities. This results in an overvalued dollar.

An overvalued dollar means more imports, less exports and hence a persistent trade deficit. As Mr. Miran puts it, America runs a trade deficit not because it imports more; it imports more because it is the provider of reserve currency to the world.

Impetus for domestic manufacturing

How to restore manufacturing to the U.S. and reduce America's trade deficit when faced with "unfair" trade and an overvalued dollar? Enter tariffs on imports. Tariffs will raise the cost of imports and cause imports to fall, thereby reducing the trade deficit. They will spur domestic manufacturing by protecting American manufacturers from import competition.

Economists fret that tariffs run counter to the principle of economic efficiency. Tariffs, they say, will spell higher costs for American consumers, an increase in the inflation rate and an inefficient manufacturing sector. Trumponomics says these concerns are based on first-round effects. Look farther and the outcomes change.

By raising the cost of imports, tariffs will result in fewer imports. A fall in imports will result in an appreciation of the dollar. If the "currency offset" to tariffs is perfect – say, a 10% tariff is offset by a 10% appreciation in the dollar – the dollar price of imports after tariffs will remain unchanged. The American consumer does not pay anything extra. Since the exporting country's currency has weakened, it earns fewer dollars than it did earlier.

Mr. Trump has been ridiculed widely for saying that the exporting nation, and not the American consumer, will pay for U.S. tariffs. Once you take into account the currency offset to tariffs, Mr. Trump's statement makes more sense. To be sure, if the currency offset is not perfect, there will be costs to the American consumer and an increase in the inflation rate. Mr. Miran estimates a one-time impact on the inflation rate of about 0.3-0.6 percentage points, an impact that is eminently bearable. This assumes there are no retaliatory tariffs.

Tariffs can lead on to other favourable second-round effects. As input costs rise, American manufacturers will look for ways to enhance efficiency and lower costs. Tariffs will compel American and foreign companies to move operations to the U.S. and this will enhance efficiency and output in the U.S. economy. There are signs that major U.S. companies are already making such a move.

The other 'Trump cards'

More importantly, tariffs are but one of four elements in Trumponomics. There are three other elements: tax cuts, deregulation and more drilling of oil. Tax cuts, made possible by tariff revenues, will compensate companies for the higher costs of imports. Deregulation will drastically reduce compliance and operational costs. More drilling of oil will help lower oil prices and counter the inflationary effects of tariffs. Taken together, the four elements constitute a plausible alternative to the current economic model.

Trumponomics is driven by the principle that efficiency cannot be the sole or even overriding consideration in economic policy-making, a principle that India's policymakers had wisely embraced decades ago. Mr. Trump's detractors believe that he has embarked on Mission Impossible. Well, Mr. Trump does not think so. He is determined to pursue his vision of MAGA (Make America Great Again) regardless of the short-term cost to the U.S.. As for the rest of the world, Mr. Trump does not particularly care.

While Donald Trump's detractors believe that he has embarked on the impossible, the fact is that this is a mission that the world will need to adjust to

A closer look at strategic affairs and the AI factor

Adya Madhavan

is a research analyst at the Takshashila Institution

The concerns about an artificial intelligence (AI) arms race have become increasingly frequent. There is speculation about how long it would take for researchers to develop artificial general intelligence or AGI, that refers to AI that can outperform human cognitive abilities and is hypothetically capable of finding solutions to problems outside of merely what it has been trained to know.

While many people are writing about AI and its new and evolving capabilities, the scholarship about how AI impacts strategic affairs is still severely impoverished. A recent paper by Eric Schmidt, the former CEO of Google, Dan Hendrycks, and Alexandr Wang, the CEO of Scale AI, has been a high-profile contribution to this conversation. Still, some of its analysis seems inadequate.

Points that can be questioned

Whether AGI is on the horizon or not is a heated debate in itself, but arguably Schmidt, Hendrycks and Wang are right in that if AGI does become a reality, states need to equip themselves to handle security threats and competition. Moreover, as a RAND commentary on the paper points out, the idea of AI non-proliferation makes an important argument focused on preventing potentially dangerous technologies from falling into the hands of the wrong actors. However, some of the mechanisms they prescribe are worth questioning, and one of the central tenets of their paper – the idea that AI is comparable to nuclear weapons – falls short.

The authors propose the idea of MAIM: Mutual Assured AI Malfunction, which functions similarly to the idea of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). MAD is a condition akin to a stalemate that can exist between two nuclear-armed states that posits that a nuclear attack by one state would result in a counterattack of at least the same magnitude, which would lead to their mutual destruction. The comparison is flawed, since MAD is a condition of mutual annihilation that comes from deploying nuclear weapons, whereas MAIM serves as a strategy of deterrence to prevent the wrong actors from developing superintelligent AI. This comparison can have dangerous implications for the way states draft policies.

The underlying assumption that states can destroy each other's AI projects as they would try to do with physical weapons infrastructure does not account for the fact that AI projects are, by and large, much more diffused than any nuclear projects in terms of infrastructure and have individuals across different places contributing to them.

Attempting to destroy a project of a terrorist group or rogue state could have many unintended consequences, including unnecessary escalation. The paper argues for the preemptive destruction of 'rogue' AI projects, but states do not have perfect surveillance and intelligence capabilities. Additionally, the idea of MAIM for deterrence and the endorsement of sabotage of enemy technologies as a strategic action can be used as a justification for overt military action.

An unfeasible proposal?

Another ambitious proposal that the authors make is to control AI chip distribution as one would with nuclear materials such as enriched uranium. What makes this proposal unfeasible is the fundamental difference between the two technologies. AI models do not require ongoing physical resources to function once trained, making supply chain controls harder to enforce.

The paper also makes certain assumptions and leaps in reasoning that serve as worst-case-scenarios, but the reasoning is unclear. First, the authors assume that AI-powered bioweapons and cyberattacks are inevitable unless states intervene early on. However, while AI could theoretically lower the barriers to cyber-threats, whether it warrants being treated like a weapon of mass destruction cannot be said as yet. The assumption that the development of AI will be state-driven also feels like a mere speculation. While there is government oversight to a certain extent, today, the private sector spearheads AI research and then makes technologies available to states and militaries for functions related to national security.

For policymakers grappling with technology as dynamic as AI and the threat of superintelligence looming over them, it is important to leave behind strategy from another time. Making historical comparisons to understand current predicaments is useful, but the analogy is imperfect as a lens through which to look at AI. AI is developed, distributed and deployed vastly differently from nuclear technologies. This comparison can lead to the assumption that deterrent mechanisms would work similarly for superintelligent AI.

Need for more scholarship

Better analogies and frameworks are needed to understand the role of AI in strategic affairs. Alternatively, the General Purpose Technology (GPT) framework, which talks about how technologies are diffused across sectors as they develop and are crucial for a state's power, could be a better analogy to look at AI. However, in its current state, AI does not fulfil the 'general'-ness of the GPT diffusion theory since large language models (LLMs) still have severe limitations and are not in a state to be as widely diffused as GPTs.

Increased scholarship on AI in strategic affairs is the only way to equip states to handle superintelligent AI if it becomes a reality in the future. Yet, if and when it happens are the two critical factors that determine what direction policymaking will take since there is currently no way to determine what superintelligent AI would be capable of.

Scholarship about how AI impacts strategic affairs is still severely impoverished and there is currently no way to determine what superintelligent AI is capable of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court on Waqf Act

The Supreme Court of India's discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 is an opportunity to reinforce the constitutional values of equality, secularism, and justice. This debate is a positive step toward preserving the Constitution's spirit and ensuring fairness for all citizens. Its stance signals efforts to align contentious provisions with the Constitution, improving the law and fostering public trust. This reflects the judiciary's strength and commitment to the Constitution.

R.K. Jain,
Barwani, Madhya Pradesh

The Supreme Court has done as it has thought best to avoid a "huge problem", to use its words. The Court is sure to look at the constitutionality of the new Waqf law closely and rigorously and find out if the law is in conformity with Article 26 of the Constitution. A law that does not recognise the notion of equality of religions and is predicated on religious discrimination cannot be countenanced in our secular democracy governed by the Constitution, of which secularism is a basic feature. As a nation founded on the secular vision of our founding fathers, we cannot let secularism become a casualty of the implementation of a Hindutva agenda.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

An unfinished fight

The article, "The unfinished fight of an 'anti national'" (Editorial page, April, 17), has highlighted the legal principle, 'bail is Rule, and jail is an exception'. But still, students should act with responsibility when expressing dissent. Holding protests, damaging public property, and also raising inflammatory slogans are bound to invite a swift and retaliatory response. If freedom of speech is a fundamental right of every citizen, does not the government too have a right to scan violent protesters?

V. Jayaraman,
Chennai

The article reveals the shifting moral compass of our democracy. When the state weaponises fear and criminalises criticism, articles such as this serve as a beacon — a reminder that the fight for justice, equality, and civil liberty remains unfinished. May journalism continue to stand tall in the defence of truth.

Rakshyakar Anupam,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

A party protests

That the Congress has an ongoing campaign of 'nationwide protests' in connection with the *National Herald* case is jarring. This is an issue where the Enforcement Directorate has gathered sufficient evidence. The party's first family is not divine that it cannot be touched by the law of the land. The party has to observe the dictum that "all are equal before law". It should face the charges and respect any verdict pronounced by the judiciary.

B.S. Jayaraman,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Are Indian startups not scaling up on innovation?

Thillai Rajan

Professor and Head, Research Centre on Startups, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

P.K. Jayadevan

Author, communications professional, and former journalist

PARLEY

Recently, while speaking at the Startup Mahakumbh in New Delhi, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said that startups were not innovating enough and were limiting themselves to grocery delivery. Are Indian startups not scaling up on innovation? Thillai Rajan and P.K. Jayadevan discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Ashokamithran T.** Edited excerpts:

Do you agree with Piyush Goyal's remarks?

P.K. Jayadevan: I think it has started a debate and the timing of the debate is great. We can disagree on the substance of his statement and a lot of people have taken sides. But I think those add to the discourse and that is a positive sign.

Thillai Rajan: Startups thrive where the ecosystem helps them. Startups are engines of innovation, but are they innovating enough? That means, are they looking at commercialising science and technology-based innovation? If you consider innovation as a spectrum, people always consider science and technology as the highest order of innovation. I'm not saying that is right or wrong; I'm merely stating a fact. From that perspective, data shows that a healthy share of startups qualifies under the deep tech sector. So, there is adequate activity and interest among startups to venture into deep tech sectors.

But the question is, are they scaling up? The capital requirements of the deep tech startups are higher in the initial phase. No revenues come in during that phase, where the level of risk is very high. So, who can provide this amount of capital? The Startup India Seed Fund scheme gives about ₹50 lakh (for activities such as market entry, commercialisation, and scaling up), but that's not adequate; there has to be follow-up funding. Today, there is realisation that there has to be private sector capital provided after the initial government support.

How do venture capitalists define innovation for the purpose of funding?

PKJ: In the early days, innovation meant just being able to order stuff online. Venture capital firms made large bets on the Indian consumer story and that was the era until 2017. We saw large companies come out of it, such as Flipkart. That was the e-commerce era. Now, we are seeing smaller funds going into deep tech, which are not nearly enough, but you could argue that venture capital is betting on the future. Now, venture capitalists will look at AI, block chain-based innovation, electric mobility, etc.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal at the Start-up Mahakumbh in New Delhi. ANI

TR: By innovation, we mean the benefits it will give to users. Are users going to benefit? Are they going to get a new experience from using this product? Will the consumer pay a premium for accessing the products and services? It is to assess the impact that it can create on people. In this regard, there are two points to be made. The first is to ask whether the innovation gives any competitive advantage that can be sustained over a long period of time. For example, a patent gives a competitive advantage. If that is not available, it will not attract investors' interest because the capital will not get returns. The second could be in terms of the market. It may be a great innovation, but unless it addresses a need in a growing market, there will not be many backers for it. So, these largely determine which innovations get commercialised and which ones do not.

What has been the result of the Startup India push? Has it borne fruit?

TR: The emphasis on a startup policy is possibly the most wide-reaching policy focus of independent India. The facts speak for themselves. First, there are at least 20 Ministries of the Central government which have a dedicated policy or a programme targeted at startups. Second, we can also be proud of the numbers: there are about 1,65,000-1,70,000 startups, if we go by the numbers of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. This indicates that startup policies have been able to encourage many people to start ventures. Third, the capital that has flown in is not only restricted to equity; we are also seeing significant amount of debt capital going into startups. Getting banks to invest in startups is really something. That shows that the startup focus is here to stay and is going to play an integral role in India's ambition of becoming a developed country. Apart from the Centre, large States too have startup policies.

> Every sector has been opened up to engage with startups. But the process has to be made smoother. There is a lot of bureaucracy, which makes life difficult. In addition to its intentions, if the government has appropriate implementation measures, many startups will find it a lot easier to operate.
> THILLAI RAJAN

PKJ: Yeah, absolutely. Everyone wants to start a company these days, which is a huge shift in mindset compared to earlier.

But if you compare India to the U.S., you will find that the U.S. shifted manufacturing to China when it had trouble with Japan. China was where it could find cheaper labour. China saw that as an opportunity to create employment, grow its own market, and also learn from American companies. It built its own telecom networks, micro-satellites, etc. China had a very nationalistic view of technology. Because it's a closed ecosystem, it always wanted to be more self-reliant with respect to technology. So, the ecosystem matured much faster. China's consumption economy also grew in a big way. About $12,000-15,000 per capita GDP is really good for a digital economy. We are still around $3,500. We don't have that kind of money to spend. We have cash-rich companies but they hesitate to invest, which is not the case in other ecosystems. That's where we are lagging. The India consumption story has to move forward. For that we need some enabling criteria.

Are you speaking about some sort of an import substitution for capital?

PKJ: Not necessarily. If the market is promising, capital will come from anywhere in the world. But yes, there is a need for more Indian home-grown venture capital firms.

What prevents startups from going up the value chain or becoming bigger?

TR: There is a natural selection process that works in the economy. But the issue is whether we should give small amounts to a large number of startups or large amounts to a small number of startups. In India, by and large, the government has been trying to give small amounts to a very large number of companies. Most of the major support that the government has provided has also been used by larger companies. The quantum of support needed has to be substantially higher. The risk capital available is very low and much of it flows from external markets, primarily the U.S. Till we are able to find domestic capital, a good amount of support needs to be provided so that we can find a few winners.

Do you think governments in India have not started taking startups seriously?

TR: No, of course they have. Every sector has been opened up to engage with startups. But the whole process has to be made smoother. There is a lot of bureaucracy, which makes life difficult. In addition to its intentions, if the government has appropriate implementation measures, many startups will find it a lot easier to operate.

India is a very unequal country. The upper middle class in urban areas want quick deliveries, domestic helps, electricians, etc. But the first wave of tech in India saw more broad-based growth. Have startups benefited only a few?

PKJ: The difference with the IT services business was that it was labour-intensive and it worked out at that point in time because of outsourcing. But were we building the foundational products? No. And did we get there? We did. Thanks to venture capital, we had Freshworks, the first Indian software product company to go to the NASDAQ and list. It changed the game. Now there are many startups that were launched by those groomed in Freshworks. Once we have successful startups, founders and others will similarly spread out and build more.

TR: The first wave of entrepreneurship was more unidimensional. Much of it was IT, software. But today, there is an emphasis on all sectors.

For every Aether, there is a Byju's. What do startups have to do to make sure they become an Aether?

TR: They should continue to be innovative because this is a competitive marketplace. One cannot rest on the laurels of the past.

PKJ: I would say set a very high bar of corporate governance and innovation.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

How a colleague's expertise can sharpen our writing

In the age of AI, human intelligence and generosity remain valuable

Meera Srinivasan

Newsrooms the world over are grappling with a new, formidable entrant – AI. The advanced capability of machines and systems can help simplify labour in many areas, reducing the time spent on grunt work. AI could potentially sharpen our output by bringing down the time required for rigour, which often entails background reading, fact-checking, speaking to experts, and perusing archives in our line of work.

When some of us stepped into a newsroom for the first time, sending a story to our editor by email was the new "cool thing". And email was something we checked only on a bulky desktop computer. In addition to books and archives at the office library, there was another crucial resource we relied heavily on – our colleagues who have been there, done that. KV (K. Venkataramanan), who recently retired as a Senior Associate Editor of *The Hindu*, has been one such exceptional colleague. Exceptional, not only in his breadth and depth of knowledge – in politics, law, policy, governance, popular culture, literature, sports (he is also a grammar nerd!) – but also in his willingness to readily share it.

To my advantage, KV is a Sri Lanka expert. Around dramatic news developments on the island, he would gently pass on a nugget from the past, helping me make more sense of the present. "Hey, just read your copy. Didn't a similar situation arise in so-and-so's presidency? Do you want to bring in that; I can look up the date," he would offer. KV knew the date; he was only verifying it. He would easily pull out a precise detail from decades ago, in just a second, as if his memory were organised in neat folders. My colleague in the data team recalls how a casual chat with KV in the newsroom led to a compelling data story probing how India's Chief Justices involved their senior colleagues in major cases.

While it is professional practice not to attribute the newspaper's editorials to any one edit-writer, it was hard to miss the KV touch in many of the paper's powerful editorials on controversial judgments. The arguments would be built on solid facts, and framed with an unmistakable commitment to human rights, democracy, and justice. That is the other thing we learn from journalists like him. There is knowledge, and there is perspective. Public-spirited journalism is hardly about flaunting knowledge or cold facts offering de-politicised accounts of history. It is about applying principles of fairness, while recognising all the structural inequalities and injustices in our world.

Reporters write for a living, but that doesn't make it easy. There are days when you stare at an awfully wordy lede wondering why the words won't just fall into place more gracefully. On such occasions, KV was my go-to person. "KV! Can you please help fix this long opening paragraph?" Within minutes, he would respond with a pithy couple of lines, instantly highlighting what matters most.

Not just me; many of my colleagues will tell you KV has been their go-to person. I have seen several popular TV anchors requesting him to break down intimidating jurisprudence or decode new legislation for them. Basically, KV would read a lengthy document in 'legalese', interpret it quickly, and unpack it for the rest of us in an accessible way. We repeatedly went to him not only because he knew things, but also because he was willing to help, that too without condescension. But there was a cost – his painful jokes! (Although I grudgingly admit that many were really good 'bad jokes'.)

Even as newsroom dynamics are changing for the better, they are not immune to pettiness or cut-throat competition. It is silly and even ironic, because none of us can deny that the stories we consider among our best benefited immensely from inputs from and sharp editing by colleagues. My generation of journalists is yet to grasp how AI might steer journalism. We have gotten by with human intelligence and generosity.

meera.srinivasan@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK | A long day's work

A hand-rickshaw puller takes a vendor along with chickens from New Market in Kolkata. K.R. Deepak

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 18, 1975

Phnom Penh surrenders to Khmer Rouge forces

Phnom Penh, April 17: Phnom Penh surrenders to the Khmer Rouge forces to-day after a three and a half month siege and welcomed the pro-Sihanouk forces with white flags and banners on every building in the city.

The surrender spelled the end to five years of fighting between the Khmer Rouge forces and those of the Government which had ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk in 1970.

A sad-faced Prime Minister Long Boret was last seen being driven to the Government palace and, according to Kyodo news agency in Tokyo, Mr. Boret, the Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sak Suthsakhan, and other high ranking officials left Phnom Penh by helicopters.

Meanwhile, in Peking, Prince Norodom Sihanouk formally announced that his Khmer Rouge forces had captured Phnom Penh. On receiving the news of Phnom Penh's surrender, he drank a toast in champagne. He also indicated that he did not plan to return in the near future.

A statement issued on his behalf simply said that the "Phnom Penh traitors" had surrendered to the Khmer Rouge at 09-30 local.

The 52-year-old Buddhist ruler immediately called a meeting of the Cabinet of his Cambodian Royal Government of National Union.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 18, 1925

North-Western Ry. strike

Karachi, April 17: Men of the Carriage and Locomotive workshops on the North-Western Railway in Karachi came out on strike at noon to-day.

Lahore, April 17: The strike on the North-Western Railway continues, and the men who left work at Rawalpindi, Kundian, Khanewal, Lalamusa and Lahore are still holding out. The Secretary, Karachi Railway Union, has sent a notice by wire on the 16th April to the Agent, North Western Railway, intimating him that the Karachi Local Carriage Shop and Running Shed will "down" their tools on the 17th April after 12 noon.

From Page One

No Waqf de-notification till next hearing: Centre

"As the Solicitor-General appearing for the Union of India, I am saying that we, as a government and as a Parliament, are answerable to the people. We received lakhs and lakhs of representations which resulted in the making of these provisions. For example, villages and villages are taken as Waqfs, private properties of individuals are taken as Waqfs. This is a considered piece of legislation. This involves a large number of innocent people's right to land and property... We will have to take you through the history of the legislation through a 100 years," Mr. Mehta said, urging the court against passing an interim order.

The court had on Wednesday refused a request from the petitioners' side for a complete stay of the Act.

The top judge pointed out that the court, while mulling over an interim order on Wednesday, had not thought of intervening in a particular amendment requiring a person to have been a practising Muslim for five years prior to dedicating his property as Waqf.

"And you are right, we do not stay legislation at the preliminary stage. That is the thumb rule. At the same time, there is also a thumb rule that normally when a matter is pending before this court, the situation as is prevailing today should continue so as not to affect the rights of the parties... We do not want the position to be changed," Chief Justice Khanna pointed out.

Retain school staff till new recruitment: SC

"There was vast bungling... Our concern is for the children," Chief Justice Khanna remarked on Thursday.

The top court directed that the advertisement for the recruitment process for assistant teachers for these four classes must be published on or before May 31, 2025. The entire recruitment process should be completed by December 31, 2025.

The Bench ordered the State government, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Kunal Mimani, and secondary school education authorities to file an affidavit before May 31, enclosing the advertisement and a schedule of the entire recruitment process till December 31.

SC sets aside HC's orders against Wikimedia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside the orders passed by the Delhi High Court directing the takedown of a Wikipedia page on the basis of a defamation case filed by the news agency, Asia News International (ANI), against U.S.-based non-profit Wikimedia Foundation.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan observed that the High Court orders of April 2 and April 8, passed by a Single-Judge Bench and Division Bench, respectively, were based on prayers that were too wide and incapable of being enforced.

"When you say 'remove all false content', what's to be removed...who decides what is defamatory," Justice Oka asked the ANI's counsel.

Justice Oka, during the hearing, advised the counsel appearing for ANI to return to the High Court with a fresh application pointing out the specific content on the page that it felt was "false, misleading and defamatory".

"Go back to the Single Judge [of the High Court] to make specific prayers pointing out specific portions to be removed from their website," Justice Oka told the counsel. The counsel for the news agency said his client had no objection to the top court setting aside the High Court orders while granting liberty to make a fresh plea for grant of interim injunction limited to specific contents or republication of the same content.

'Judiciary can't attack forces of democracy'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Questioning the judiciary for setting a timeline for the President to take decisions and accusing it of acting as a "super Parliament", Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said the Supreme Court cannot fire a "nuclear missile" at democratic forces.

Addressing Rajya Sabha interns on Thursday, Mr. Dhankhar held an extended critique of the judiciary, citing alleged incursions by the judiciary into the domains of the executive and Parliament.

His remarks come days after the Supreme Court sought to fix a timeline for the President and Governors to grant assent to the Bills reserved for their consideration.

"So, we have judges who will legislate, who will perform executive functions, who will act as super Parliament and absolutely have no accountability because the law of the land does not apply to them," Mr. Dhankhar said.

Mr. Dhankhar underlined that a government elected by the people is accountable to the people and to Parliament.

"There is a principle of accountability in operation. In Parliament, you can ask questions... But if this executive governance is by the judiciary, how do you ask questions? Whom do you hold accountable in elections?," he added.

India slams Pakistan Army chief's remarks on Kashmir

External Affairs Ministry says Islamabad must vacate illegally occupied territories, points out that Pakistan may try hard, but its reputation as the epicentre of global terrorism will not diminish

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India reiterated its sovereignty over the territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, while dismissing Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir's characterisation of Kashmir as the "jugular vein of Pakistan".

At his weekly press briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reminded Islamabad that it needs to evacuate those parts of Jammu and Kashmir that it occupied in 1948.

"This is a Union Territory of India. Its only relation with Pakistan is the evacuation of the illegally occupied territories by that country," Mr. Jaiswal said, in response to a question about General Munir's remarks at a gathering of the Pakistani diaspora. The Pakistan Army chief had said: "Our stance on Kashmir is absolutely clear. It was our jugular vein, and it is our jugular vein. We will not forget it, and we will not abandon our Kashmiri brethren in their heroic struggle against the Indian occupation."

Tracking movement: An Army jawan keeps vigil at the Line of Control in Poonch. PTI

General Munir's speech referred to the two-nation theory and the movement for the creation of Pakistan that took place in the first half of the 20th century.

In response, Mr. Jaiswal said, "How can there be anything foreign in the jugular vein?", suggesting that, contrary to General Munir's characterisation, Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India. The reiteration of Pakistan's long-held position on Kashmir came days after the United States handed over custody of Tahawwur Rana, a Pakistani-origin man who was a key player behind the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai. Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, described Mr. Rana as a Canadian national.

Mr. Jaiswal reminded Pakistan of the danger of cross-border terrorism emanating from its territory.

"Pakistan may try hard, but its reputation as the epicentre of global terrorism will not diminish. The extradition of Rana serves as a reminder to Pakistan that it needs to bring to justice other perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks, whom it continues to shield," Mr. Jaiswal said.

Russia says it did not attack Indian pharma warehouse in Kyiv

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after a major warehouse of Indian pharmaceutical company Kusum Healthcare was destroyed in a missile attack in Ukraine's capital, the Embassy of Russia in New Delhi has blamed the incident on "Ukrainian air defence missiles".

In a statement on Thursday, the embassy also claimed that the Ukrainian armed forces were using civilian infrastructure to hide military equipment like artillery pieces and rocket launchers.

"The most likely explanation of the incident is that one of the Ukrainian air defence missiles fell on Kusum Healthcare's warehouse, setting it on fire. Similar cases have happened previously, whereby Ukrainian air defence interceptors, failing to hit their targets, fell in urban areas due to ineptly operated electronic warfare systems," the Russain Embassy said.

In this picture from a post shared by the Ukraine's Embassy in India on X, a

Trading blame

The Ukrainian Embassy had earlier blamed the Russian armed forces for the incident in a public statement.

"In response to the accusations, the Russian Embassy in New Delhi informs that the Russian Armed Forces did not attack or plan to attack on April 12, 2025, Kusum Healthcare's pharmacy warehouse," said the Russian Embassy statement.

Two-day online camp for teenagers to build positivity

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

MiTran Global will conduct a two-day online summer camp for those between 11 and 17, to build positivity. The event, which will be held on April 19 and 20, is designed to equip young minds with the tools to build confidence, develop resilience, and foster a proactive and positive outlook on life. *The Hindu In School* is the media partner for the programme.

Students will be guided to transform their mindset and approach both academics and life with renewed energy and purpose.

A camp workbook and certificate of completion will be provided.

Students may choose from slots between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. on both days. Each slot can accommodate a maximum of 25 students and the registration fee is ₹1,999.

The first 11 registrants will receive a physical copy of the book *I Love Exams*. For registration, visit hub.mitranglobal.com/services/ipc.

Modules would cover topics such as 'shifting from studying hard to studying smart', 'gaining a secret advantage in competitive academics' and 'discovering how self-talk influences confidence'. For details, contact 74832 62507.

'Dhaka's actions led to India's closure of transshipment facility for Bangladesh'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after India stopped the transshipment facility for Bangladeshi cargo, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday indicated that the decision could be understood by looking at Bangladesh's earlier actions.

"We had taken that measure because of the congestion that we see on our ports and our airports. But I would also remind you, please do have a look at the developments that have happened on the Bangladeshi side prior to us announcing these measures," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in response to a question on the hurdles in trade ties between Dhaka and New Delhi.

'Regressive steps'

Before India stopped the transshipment facility for Bangladeshi cargo, Dhaka's interim government had decided to shut down three land ports with India and suspended operations at another land port, citing the lack of necessary infrastructure for operations. Sources here said that New Delhi viewed these closures as "regressive steps" that were taken "unilaterally".

Earlier, trucks from Bangladesh would bring international cargo for export at Akhaura check post near Agartala. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Jaiswal refused to comment on Bangladesh stopping its import of Indian yarn earlier this week, but an official source said that India feels that the decision was taken to enable "more imports from Pakistan".

Officials here pointed out that Bangladesh's decision to set up an Investigation, Research and Management Unit (IRM) in January to inspect cargo movements through the Benapole land port was a "restrictive step that would add to the delay in processing of goods movement from India".

Dhaka slams attacks

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's press secretary, Shafiqul Alam, on Thursday refuted reports that Bangladeshi citizens were involved in the recent anti-Waqf Act riots in West Bengal.

"We strongly refute any attempts to implicate Bangladesh in the communal violence in Murshidabad. We condemn attacks on Muslims, causing loss of lives and properties. We urge the Government of India and West Bengal to take all steps to fully protect the minority Muslim population," Mr. Alam said.

Election rules row: SC allows 3 weeks for EC response

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted three more weeks to the Election Commission (EC) to respond to the pleas of Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh and others against the recent amendments to the 1961 election rules.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar had issued a notice to the Centre and the poll panel on January 15 on Mr. Ramesh's plea and sought a response. The Bench set July 21 for the next hearing.

The government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents, such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage, besides video recordings of candidates, to prevent their misuse.

Mr. Ramesh's plea was filed in December and had expressed "hope" that the apex court would help "restore the fast eroding" integrity of the electoral process.

CBI registers FCRA violation case against AAP leader Pathak, conducts searches

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act violation case against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Durgesh Pathak, Kapil Bhardwaj, and unknown private persons. On Thursday, the agency conducted searches on the premises of those involved.

The first information report (FIR) was instituted on April 14, following a reference from the Ministry of Home Affairs, based on the information provided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The alleged offences include criminal conspiracy and assisting the party in accepting contributions from foreign sources.

Last year, two purported ED documents alleging irregularities under the FCRA with respect to the donations received by the AAP from sources in several foreign countries during 2014-2020 had surfaced. They are related to the same matter.

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak at his residence in New Delhi after the CBI search on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The papers contained purported details shared by the ED with the Home Ministry. It was alleged that the AAP got donations from people in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, the U.K., Hong Kong, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Brunei Darussalam.

Party account

The funds were directly deposited into the party's IDBI bank account.

The FIR alleges that the AAP had set up a body, "AAP Overseas India." It was tasked to mobilise foreign funds for the party.

Mr. Pathak said the CBI raid at his residence was a politically motivated move to "intimidate AAP as it gained ground in Gujarat".

"It's clear this was done to scare us because I've been made Gujarat co-incharge," Mr. Pathak said at a press conference.

Hitting back, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged that the money collected through the liquor scam in Delhi was put into the Goa elections, during which Mr. Pathak was in charge of AAP's Goa campaign.

Hindi mandatory third language for primary classes in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra School Education Department on Thursday announced that Hindi would be compulsory as the third language in Marathi- and English-medium schools from Class 1 to 5.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis defended the decision, saying it will facilitate better communication with the Union government. "This is not a new notification, it has always been there in the education policy. The Union government, through this medium, is making bridges for communication," Mr. Fadnavis said.

However, regional political parties, including Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), questioned the need to impose Hindi on the State.

MNS chief Raj Thackeray said, "The party will not allow the government's efforts to impose Hindi everywhere as it is not a national language."

"Hindi is a State language, then why should it be taught in Maharashtra from the first grade? Whatever your three-language formula is, limit it to government affairs, do not bring it to education."

APPEAL

Baby Abhirup Mondal, in Patient No. MH013865337, 1 year 7 months old son of Akash Mondal admitted Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to have Congenital Heart Disease, Levocardia, Situs Ambiguous, LSVC to Unroofed CS, "Common Complete AVSD", Common Atrium, DORV – Large Inlet VSD with Subarterial Extension, severe PS appears tight, confluent branch PAs. He requires to undergo bidirectional shunt. The estimated cost of the surgery is **Rs. 5,00,000/-.**

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Abhirup Mondal. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi.** All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com.** Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Tejashwi to lead INDIA bloc panel for Bihar polls

Coordination committee will handle all election-related issues, including seat-sharing, combined manifesto and campaign strategy; no discussions held on the alliance's chief ministerial candidate

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Joining hands: Congress leaders Rajesh Kumar and Krishna Allavaru, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and VIP chief Mukesh Sahani during a press conference in Patna on Thursday. ANI

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav was on Thursday appointed head of the coordination committee of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) for the Bihar Assembly election, due to be held later this year.

The coordination committee would be responsible for all election-related issues, including seat-sharing. "We have formed the INDIA alliance's coordination committee, which will deal with campaign strategy, seat-sharing, issues of common minimum programme, combined manifesto, maintaining coordination among the leaders of the alliance at the State, district, and block levels, and all other issues related to election. The committee will be chaired by Tejashwi*ji*. He will oversee all activities of the INDIA alliance as its chairman and president," Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru said during a press briefing at the party office.

The formation of the coordination committee was announced after a meeting of the *Mahagathbandhan*, or grand alliance, at the RJD office in Patna. Several senior leaders, including Vikasheel Insaan Party president Mukesh Sahani and leaders of the Left parties, participated in the meeting that lasted more than three hours.

Mr. Allavaru said the coordination committee will hold meetings and go to the public in a united manner to seek their blessings. The committee will have members from all parties in the INDIA bloc.

"The INDIA bloc will contest the election based on issues of the people and will be the voice of the people," Mr. Allavaru stressed.

On the chief ministerial candidate, Mr. Allavaru said, "While there is unity and clarity in the INDIA bloc, there is confusion among the leaders of the National Democratic Alliance [NDA], with Haryana Chief Minister [Nayab Singh Saini] already saying that [Deputy Chief Minister] Samrat Choudhary will become the Chief Minister."

Reacting to the development and the speculation about him being named the chief ministerial candidate of the Opposition, Mr. Yadav said, "Today we have formed the coordination committee and you should not worry about anything else. Let the BJP get worried. There is consensus among the INDIA bloc leaders and there is no confusion at all... Have some patience [on the CM candidate], you want to get all information in just one day. "

On former Union Minister and Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party president Pashupati Kumar Paras joining the INDIA bloc after recently quitting the NDA, the former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister said the issue would be discussed at the next meeting.

Refusing to implement the Waqf Act is untenable and unconstitutional: Minister

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Referring to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said here on Thursday that not following or implementing an Act passed by Parliament was "untenable".

Mr. Rijiju's statement comes in the wake of some State Assemblies, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, calling for the withdrawal of the Bill before it was passed. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said the Act would not be implemented in the State.

"Some of the statements coming from the Chief Ministers are a result of anger or emotion or [are] politically motivated," Mr. Rijiju, who piloted the Waqf Bill through both Houses of Parliament, told *The Hindu*.

He said the Chief Ministers would "regret it..., especially those functionaries, the official position-holders, they will regret it. Just to cater to the political constituencies, they made certain disparaging remarks, and then leading to a difficult situation – they will regret it".

"The very fact that the person is holding a constitutional position, and then again says things which are unconstitutional, like not to follow or implement the Act passed by Parliament of India – this statement itself is untenable," Mr. Rijiju said.

> Some of the statements coming from the CMs [on Waqf Act] are a result of anger or emotion or [are] politically motivated
>
> **KIREN RIJIJU**
> Union Minister

The Minister said he was only concerned with the constitutional implications of the provisions, adding that if anybody violated them, "then there are measures to handle those challenges".

Land, and law and order are State subjects, and certain parts of the Waqf Act are on the Concurrent List, thus requiring State governments to implement the Act.

'Rules being framed'

On what remedy was available to the State governments in this context, Mr. Rijiju said the Union government was in the process of framing rules for the Waqf Act.

"Now [that] the legislative process is on, the entire subordinate legislation and implementation process, [the] forming of the Central council – all this [will] follow. Once we are done with the necessary follow-up of the Amendment Act, it is up to the State government to follow it as per norms. Now, if the State governments fail to constitute the body as far the provisions of the Act [are concerned], then they will have to face the consequences because then it's amounting to the violation of the Constitution itself," Mr. Rijiju said.

"I know very well that the Chief Ministers who are openly saying they will not implement the Amendment Act passed by Parliament, they themselves will eat humble pie – because who can say that he or she will not follow the Constitution of India?" he added.

The Supreme Court is in the process of hearing several legal challenges to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, which was cleared by Parliament in the recently concluded Budget Session.

Mamata urges Governor not to visit Murshidabad

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Emphasising that confidence-building measures were under way in Murshidabad, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday urged Governor C.V. Ananda Bose to defer his proposed visit to violence-hit areas.

The Governor, however, said he would be visiting some of the areas and meeting people "to see the ground situation himself".

Speaking to mediapersons, Ms. Banerjee said she would request that apart from local people, no one should go to Murshidabad. "Normalcy has returned and the need of the hour is to build confidence among people. This is being done by the State administration. If that hadn't been the case, I too could have gone. I will go at the right time. If I go now, others too will want to go," she said.

The West Bengal Police said on Thursday that 60 FIRs had been lodged in connection with the violence in the district and the number of arrests had risen to 274.

Violence had erupted in Murshidabad on April 11 and 12 over the protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act. Three persons died in the violence and hundreds were left homeless after several houses were set on fire.

Govt. trying to silence Cong. through ED: Chennithala

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The "dictatorial" Modi government at the Centre is misusing the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI to silence the Opposition parties and suppress their voices, said All India Congress Committee Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala.

"The ED action against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi [in the *National Herald* case] is politically motivated. Modi and Shah cannot silence the Congress through such actions, and these actions will not break our morale. On the contrary, we will face this oppression with greater strength," he said, while holding a protest near Dadar. "We will continue this fight strongly," he added.

BJP hits out at Congress over *National Herald* case, alleges fraud and money laundering

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday dismissed as baseless the Congress party's charge that "political vendetta" was behind the Enforcement Directorate's chargesheet against its senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the *National Herald* case.

The BJP asserted that it was an "open-and-shut case of fraud, corruption, and money laundering".

At a press conference, BJP leader and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the Congress workers should protest against their own leadership for allegedly misusing a charitable entity and the party's resources for their own personal gain, instead of protesting outside the offices of the ED and the Union government.

Hardeep Singh Puri

He said the publication of *National Herald* was stopped in 2008 and the case started in 2012-13, when the BJP was not in power at the Centre. "How is it that by paying a nominal amount of ₹50 lakh, they acquired assets worth ₹2,000 crore? It is an open and shut case of fraud, corruption, and money laundering," he said.

Mr. Puri said in 2014, a metropolitan magistrate court had observed that Young Indian Limited appeared to be created "as a sham or a cloak" to convert public money for personal use. "The Congress party has used its lawyers to effectively somehow delay, side-track, and derail the case," he alleged.

Citing the example of *National Herald*'s Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg property in Delhi, he said the land was given at a subsidised rate of ₹1.25 lakh per acre in 1963 to run its press and office. However, he said, the press was shut in 2008 and the property was rented out for commercial purposes.

Dawoodi Bohra group thanks Modi for Waqf Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A delegation of the Dawoodi Bohra community on Thursday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the enactment of the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

They said that it had been their long-pending demand. The delegation met Mr. Modi at his official residence. Recalling his strong connection with the community, Mr. Modi spoke about the years of work that went behind framing the Act.

"He spoke about the difficulties faced by people due to Waqf and said that one of the key drivers behind bringing the Act was that most of the sufferers of the prevalent system were women, especially widows," said a press release.

Waqf Act: Congress welcomes Supreme Court's observations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Welcoming the Supreme Court's interim order on the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, the Congress on Thursday said the party was opposing the law not for the sake of any particular community but to safeguard constitutional principles.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the top court's observations on the Waqf Act have brought into focus "the very apprehensions raised by the INDIA parties". "They have opened the space for a broader and necessary debate on the legitimate concerns surrounding this hastily enacted legislation – concerns that were neither adequately addressed during the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] deliberations nor after the day-long discussion in Parliament," Mr. Venugopal said.

'Not a reform'

Addressing a press conference with Congress Minority Department chairman Imran Pratapgadhi, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi said the amendments to Waqf law was "not reform but a retaliation meticulously scripted, strategically timed, and constitutionally questionable". He said behind the "bland language of governance lies the bold ambition of control" and religious autonomy was being reduced to state-administered protocol.

"We are not here to defend just one community. We are here to defend a constitutional principle – that the rights of the few cannot be sacrificed at the altar of majoritarian convenience. If Article 26 can be amputated in the name of efficiency, then no freedom is safe, and no institution sacred," he said.

Modi govt. is bent on oppressing MGNREGS workers, says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Branding the Narendra Modi government "anti-people", Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said the government was bent on "oppressing" workers enlisted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

He reiterated the party's demands that the minimum wage per day be fixed at ₹400 and that workers be provided at least 150 days of work in a year. Sharing on X a media report which claimed that the government was unlikely to raise the daily floor wage under the programme on top of the annual hike, Mr. Kharge said: "It seems that the anti-people Modi government has refused to increase MGNREGS wages. This is like attacking the rights of MGNREGS workers."

"Amarjeet Sinha's High Level Committee had also suggested increasing wages and increasing the budget of MGNREGS," he said.

'Negative impact'

Be it excluding nearly 7 crore registered workers from the scheme by imposing Aadhaar-based payment condition, or allocating the lowest MGNREGS budget in the past 10 years as compared to the total budget, the Centre has been negatively impacting MGNREGS, he said.

Legacy of Odisha's great leaders being maligned: BJD

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Biju Janata Dal chief Naveen Patnaik on Thursday said attempts were being made to distort history and malign the legacy of great Odisha leaders like Biju Patnaik.

Paying tribute to the former Chief Minister and his father on his death anniversary, he said people were trying to change history, but history was a manifestation of a nation's collective experience during a specific period and it cannot be altered. A statue of Biju Patnaik was torched in Balangir district this week.

Mr. Patnaik also submitted nomination papers for the post of BJD chief.

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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH (APSDMA)
e-Tender Notification No.02 & 03/APSDMA/2025 Dt: 16.04.2025
1. Supply of WRE, CSSR, MFR & CBRN equipments to APSDRF- **Rs. 8,41,72,982/-.**
2.Supply of Bus (31+1+1-Seater) - 12 No's & Troop Carrier, Vehicles - 12 No's to ASDRF, - **Rs. 6,10,26,000/-**. Download start from Date:**17.04.2025 (04.00 PM)**, Last date for Application Date: **25.04.2025 (04.00 PM)**.
Website: **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
DIPR 4047PP/CL, Dt: 17/04/2025
Sd/- Director (DM) & Managing Director, APSDMA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD CITY DIVISION AJMER
No:- 75 Date:- 07.04.2025
NOTICE INVITING BID NO.- 02/2025-26
NIB CODE NO. PWD2526A0063
Tender for **02 works** are invited from interested bidders upto 06.00 PM on **06th May 2025.** Other particulars of the bids may be visit on the procurement portal ({ HYPERLINK "http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" } , { HYPERLINK "http://sppp.raj.nic.in" }) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 482.40 Lacs**.
UBN No.:-
UBN S.No 1 :- PWD2526WSOB151
UBN S.No 2 :- PWD2526WSOB152
(Vipin Kumar Jindal)
Executive Engineer
PWD City Division Ajmer
DIPR/C/4968/2025

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
No:CE/PRD/ACCTS-17/24/138, dtd.15.04.2025
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the Work: **Repairing of Bituminous Road from PPL Junction to Railway Station at Paradip**. Estimated Cost: **Rs.1,31,08,899.52.** Last date & time of submission : **05.05.2025** upto 17:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details: eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRD, PPA
PPA/PR/05/2025-2026 **dtd.17.04.2025**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H.E.D. DIST. CIRCLE, JAIPUR
No. 149-158 DATE:- 9/04/2025
Notice Inviting Bid (01-05/2025-26)
Bids for **ARC for work of Construction and Commisioning of 200 MM Dia Tubewell 02 year DLP under jurisdiction of Division Dist. Rural Div II jaipur/Jamwaramgarh/Dist. Rural Div I jaipur/Shahpura (Jaipur)/Jobner** are invited from interested bidders upto **06.00 PM 23.04.2025 (Dist. Rural Div II jaipur/div Jamwaramgarh/div Jobner) 30.04.2025 (Dist. Rural Div I jaipur/Shahpura-jaipur Jaipur).** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state;
UBN.....
01/25-26 UBN WSRC 00637 - 09.04.25
02/25-26 UBN WSRC 00638 - 09.04.25
03/25-26 UBN WSRC 00639 - 09.04.25
04/25-26 UBN WSRC 00640 - 09.04.25
05/25-26 UBN WSRC 00641 - 09.04.25
(AJAY KUMAR)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
P.H.E.D. DIST. CIRCLE, JAIPUR
DIPR/C/4997/2025

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e-Auction of scrap materials is scheduled through M/s. MSTC on **29.04.2025.** Interested bidders may log on to **www.mstcecommerce.com** For further details and any clarifications contact: M/s.MSTC Ltd.,No.19/5, 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560 052. Phone Nos: 080-22260054, 22266417, 22287356. BMTC Contact phone Nos: + 91 7760991157.
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NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NEET-PG 2025 on **15th June 2025.**
The online applications are being invited from **17th April 2025 (03:00 PM Onwards) to 07th May 2025 (Till 11:55PM)** at NBEMS website: https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=neetpg
Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

Superintendent Intellectual Disable Home, Girls Wing, Jamdoli, Jaipur
File No. 11/2025-26/27 Date 07/04/2025
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for providing care taker services on job basis (24x7) in Intellectual Disable Home, Girls Wing, Jamdoli, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders upto 02 PM date 28-04-2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in of the state; and http://dsap.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 14500000. (Rupees one crore forty five lakh only) ·
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DIPR/C/4975/2025 **SUPERINTENDENT**

INBRIEF

Focusing on indigenisation of defence ecosystem: Rajnath

India is focusing on indigenisation, innovation, and global leadership not only to secure its borders but also to position itself as a key player in the international defence ecosystem, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday. Speaking at a defence conclave organised by *The Week*, Mr. Singh stated, "Today, while India's defence sector is moving ahead on the path of self-reliance, it is also ready to play a very important role in making global supply chains resilient." He added, "The day is not far when India will not only emerge as a developed country, but our military power will also emerge as the number one in the world."

Report verifying audio clips of Biren ready, Centre tells SC

The Centre on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that a forensic report on the authenticity of leaked audio clips alleging the role of former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in the ethnic violence in the State was ready and would be filed shortly in a sealed cover. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna took note of the submissions of a counsel appearing for the Centre and the State government to this effect and deferred the hearing in the week commencing May 5. The counsel said the report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) will be filed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and sought an adjournment, saying the law officer was unavailable at the moment. PTI

India 'in touch' with students facing visa issues in the U.S.

MEA shifts stance from earlier advice to merely follow U.S. rules, and now offers support; it also suggests legal steps for injunctions against deportation; U.S. student visas to Indians see 30% dip

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

> We are aware that several Indian students have received communication from the U.S. government regarding their F-1 visa status, which happens to be the student visa. We are looking into the matter. Our embassy and consulates are in touch with the students to provide support
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> Spokesperson, External Affairs Ministry

The Indian government's missions in the United States are in contact with Indian students there who have received emails revoking their visa status, and have offered them "support", the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

The comments mark a shift from a previous statement that merely advised students to "follow the law". To Indians vulnerable to the Trump administration's crackdown, who face action by the Departments of State and Homeland Security, the Ministry's statement indicates it is taking their plight more seriously than in the past.

While some have been sent notices after being identified as participants in student protests, especially in favour of the Palestinian cause, a number of Indians have received notices as their names appear in government databases for minor infractions, including traffic violations.

"We are aware that several Indian students have received communication from the U.S. government regarding their F-1 visa status, which happens to be the student visa. We are looking into the matter. Our embassy and consulates are in touch with the students to provide support," Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a weekly press briefing.

In a similar briefing on March 21, the spokesperson had said that visa and immigration policies lay within the "sovereign functions of a country", adding that when "Indian nationals are abroad, they must comply with local laws and regulations".

Mr. Jaiswal's latest statement came in response to *The Hindu*'s query about the specific case of Indian student Chinmay Deore. Assisted by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Mr. Deore and three other foreign students enrolled at universities in Michigan filed a joint petition calling for their visa status to be restored in the U.S.'s SEVIS database, which stands for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

Mr. Deore, who is in his final year of a bachelor's degree programme at Wayne State University, had received an email from the university's international students office informing him of his SEVIS status being terminated, as he had been "identified in a criminal records check and/or has had their VISA revoked". However, the petition maintained that none of the four student petitioners, including Nepali citizen Yogesh Joshi and two Chinese students, had been charged with, let alone convicted of, any crime in the U.S.

Ministry officials did not confirm whether they were directly assisting Mr. Deore, but did say that they were advising students similarly affected to pursue a "legal route" to obtain an injunction on the deportation proceedings against them so they can complete their studies.

This week, a court in Wisconsin ordered a stay on the deportation of another Indian student, Isser Dasani, who was due to graduate next month in a computer engineering programme at the University of Madison-Wisconsin.

Drop in F-1 visas

Such actions against foreign students is one more worry for those applying for education in the U.S.

In addition to long visa wait times, the number of student visas issued in February, the first month after U.S. President Donald Trump took over, has dropped nearly 30% from last year.

According to U.S. State Department's visa statistics analysed by *The Hindu*, the number of F-1 (student) visas issued at the U.S. Embassy in Delhi and the U.S. consulates in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata have dropped from 514 in February 2024 to 360 in February 2025.

Coaching centres warned against misleading students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry urged the centres to stick to the guidelines issued by it in 2024. R.V. MOORTHY

Ahead of the declaration of results of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), under the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry, on Thursday warned coaching centres not to use misleading advertisements.

The CCPA, in a statement, directed coaching centres to adhere to the "Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Advertisements in the Coaching Sector" issued by the Ministry in 2024 and the Consumer Protection Act.

The panel said representations by coaching centres should be accurate, clear, and free from misleading claims or concealment of important information from consumers. They "should avoid making assurances of guaranteed success. Coaching centres must clearly disclose key details in their advertisements, including the student's name, rank, course type, and whether the course was paid. Disclaimers must be prominently displayed in the same font size as other important information to ensure consumers are not misled," it said.

The panel said it had issued notices to a few institutes regarding guaranteed placement, selection, assurance of rank in JEE or NEET, violation of consumer rights, misleading advertisement, and unfair trade practices, including promised services not being provided, failing to refund fees despite cancellation of admission, and partial refund of fees.

The panel said such practices violated various sections of the Consumer Protection Act and the 2024 guidelines. "The guidelines were framed to enhance transparency and fairness in the sector, helping students and their families make informed decisions based on accurate and truthful information." it added.

Prisons plagued by lack of medical, mental health professionals: report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

With a national average occupancy rate of more than 131%, Indian jails face extreme overcrowding and are battling multiple health challenges, according to the recently released India Justice Report 2025.

The report highlights the fact that India's prison inmate population is projected to reach 6.8 lakh by 2030, even though prison capacity is only likely to grow to 5.15 lakh.

The capacity shortage is not restricted to space alone, but extends to health staff.

There are only 25 psychologists for the entire nation's prisoners, at a time when the recorded number of prisoners with mental illnesses has jumped from 4,470 in 2012 to 9,084 in 2022. Yet, the response remains largely absent, the report says.

Upward trend: The prison inmate population of India is projected to reach 6.8 lakh by 2030. AP

43% vacancy

Prisons also record a 43% vacancy among medical officers. The report, titled "The State of Public Health in India's Prisons: India Justice Report 2025 – Findings on Gaps in Staffing & Medical Care", explains that the model prison manual (2016) benchmarks the prisoner-doctor ratio at 300 prisoners to one doctor. "India's national average far exceeds that, standing at 775 prisoners per doctor," says the report.

It also highlights the non-availability of health data on prisoners entering jail with a disability, and those who acquire a disability within the prison.

Overcrowding could also be a root cause of the spread of several communicable diseases, the report says. In the decade between 2012 and 2022, there have been worrisome upward shifts in prison populations in several areas.

As of 2022, no State or Union Territory met the benchmark of one psychologist or psychiatrist per 500 inmates. At that time, there were only 69 sanctioned posts for psychologists and psychiatrists across India's 1,330 prisons and 5.7 lakh inmates, but not even half of these positions were filled.

"The data record the presence of only 25 or one for every 22,929 prisoners. Twenty-five States/Union Territories make no provision for a psychologist or psychiatrist within their cohort of correctional staff," said Valay Singh, the lead author of the India Justice Report.

'Environment Ministry must roll back order on desulphurising coal plants'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry should roll back its 2015 policy mandating all of India's 537 coal-fired plants to install a class of equipment called Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) in order to reduce sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions. Instead, it should only apply to those plants using imported coal or high (>0.5%) sulphur coal, a study commissioned by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, and executed by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, has found.

Although coal-fired plants were to have installed FGD by 2018, only 8% of the plants have set up the equipment after the Ministry extended deadlines. As of now, compliance has been pushed to 2027, 2028, and 2029, respectively, depending on the category of the thermal power plant.

Checking SO2 emissions: The study was commissioned by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser. NAGARA GOPAL

Currently, 230 thermal power plants are in various stages of installing FGD, and 260 have not yet placed an order. It is estimated, according to the Central Electricity Authority, that FGD costs ₹1.2 crore per megawatt (MW) to install. India has an installed coal capacity of 218,000 MW, which is expected to rise to 283,000 gigawatt (GW) by 2032.

The rationale underlying the NIAS analysis is that 92% of the coal used in Indian plants has low sulphur content (0.3%-0.5%). Norms mandated by the Central Pollution Control Board requiring that the stack heights (exhaust columns) in the thermal power plants be a minimum 220 metres, coupled with "Indian climatic conditions", ensured that SO2 emissions did not threaten local air quality. A study by the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi in 2024, which the NIAS study references, found that 'acid rain', the most visible consequence of high SO2 emissions, "was not a significant issue" in India.

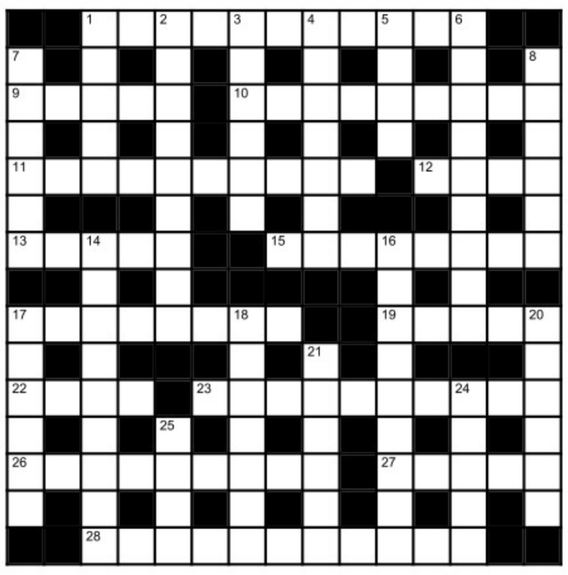
Moreover, installing FGD in all plants would increase power consumption as well as freshwater consumption in the plants, resulting in an additional 69 million tonnes of CO2 (2025-30), while reducing SO2 emissions by 17 million tonnes. The study argues for SO2 emissions, citing an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment as having "masked" global warming by 0.5 degrees Celsius from 2010-2019 relative to 1850-1900.

TH CROSSWORD + 14462

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Look at company with objectives... "To manufacture railway engines" (11)
9 Planet with hot swamp (5)
10 Countryman spreading rice around animal (9)
11 Show previous inhibition in absence of Indian (10)
12 British order confiscating old instrument (4)
13 Own advertisement at premier tech institute (5)
15 Last taste-maker (4,4)
17 John may be found in this part of the boat, perhaps? (4,4)
19 Place request for arrangement (5)
22 Operation aboard ship to produce carrots (4)
23 Plant input made from sterile fir (10)
26 Extraordinarily quiet alien retiring after starting to exhibit temper. That's manners... (9)
27 After end of road, turn east at junction and start singing songs for two (5)
28 Once daddy, now mummy! It's clear! (11)

Down

1 Student support for tree (5)
2 Lived with mixed gender group accepting regular usage (9)
3 Share short moment with horrible yeti (6)
4 Quiver! Lot more can be wrong! (7)
5 Partially revealed meat (4)
6 So a bidder ordered buffet (9)
7 Obama is confused about oriental organism (6)
8 Clergyman snoops at end of feast (6)
14 Top motion about debatable issue (4,5)
16 Ken's information (9)
17 Tense journalist probably did this after he copied (6)
18 Makes boxes containing ecstasy (7)
20 Most infrequent adjustment of rates around end of September (6)
21 Greek goddess's then protected by American adult (6)
24 Sex with excited American teenager primarily produces this secretion (5)
25 VAT on a musical instrument (4)

SUDOKU

	5		8	3				
		9			4		8	
2						6		
	7	3	1	2	5			
	4			7			5	
			3	4	6	8	7	
		8						1
	3		4			9		
				8	1		4	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6493 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	3	2	5	7	4	6	1
6	1	5	9	4	8	7	3	2
4	7	2	3	6	1	9	8	5
1	9	4	5	2	3	8	7	6
5	6	7	8	1	4	2	9	3
3	2	8	6	7	9	5	1	4
2	5	1	7	8	6	3	4	9
8	4	9	1	3	2	6	5	7
7	3	6	4	9	5	1	2	8

FAITH

Good Friday, time to forgive

The first words of Jesus from the cross were a prayer. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:24). This was not a prayer for Himself, but for others. And this prayer was not asking for blessings for His friends, those who loved Him, walked with Him and cared for Him, but for others. This prayer was for those who held Him in low esteem, for those who had used a whip on Him, spat on Him, nailed Him to a cross, put a crown of thorns on His head, mocked Him and cast lots for His robe even as He hung on the cross. He prayed for those who degraded Him, said W.J. Samuel.

Jesus sought forgiveness for all – from the priests who held Him guilty of blasphemy (mis)using their authority, to Pilate, who had the power to set him free but chose to hand him over to the Jewish mob, the Roman centurion and his soldiers, and Judas who betrayed Him. There are two issues here. One, for the sin they committed, none of them deserved forgiveness. Two, Jesus Himself interceded in prayer for those who did not deserve forgiveness.

Good Friday calls for introspection. Those who introspect will realise that everyone is a sinner. *The Bible* says, in Romans 3:23, "All have fallen short of the glory of the Lord." Sinners do not deserve God's forgiveness, but Jesus intercedes in prayer for all of us and asks God to forgive us.

Looking down from the cross, Jesus saw indifferent people. He could not kneel or fold His hands in prayer, but He opened His mouth and prayed for such people. For, if God did not forgive them, they would die in their sins. Even in His dying hours, the message of Jesus was love and peace. This is the example He set for all time to come.

INBRIEF

35 lakh tonne of sugar to be diverted to make ethanol

Total sugar expected to be diverted for ethanol production in the sugar season 2024-2025 is 35 lakh tonne against 21.5 lakh tonne in the season ended September 2024. The Indian Sugar and Bio Energy Manufacturers Association said sugar ouput between October 2024 and April 15, 2025 was 254.97 lakh tonne and 38 of the 534 factories continued to operate. Cane availability improved in U.P. and hence some factories in the State may continue to make sugar the first week of May.

Warburg, ADIA units to invest $877 mn in IDFC FIRST Bank

India's IDFC FIRST Bank will raise up to ₹75 billion rupees ($877 million) from affiliate firms of private equity group Warburg Pincus and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) sovereign wealth fund, the lender said. The bank will issue Warburg Pincus, an existing investor, and ADIA convertible shares which, if fully converted, will give them a combined 15% stake in the bank. The bank will use the investment to fund its growth. REUTERS

HUL to withdraw Lakme ad after row over Derma Co.

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) informed the Delhi High Court it will withdraw and republish Lakme ad campaign that allegedly disparages Honasa Consumer Ltd.'s skincare brand, Derma Co. Meanwhile, iIn a statement, HUL said, "The Delhi High Court has permitted to continue with the campaign with some modifications. There is no injunction against the Lakme campaign. In return, Honasa has agreed to take down their social media posts on all platforms."

Infosys Q4 net slips to ₹7,033 cr.

Tech firm to pay ₹22 an equity share in final dividend for FY25; Infosys joins peers in flagging tough market outlook in FY26; wins $11.6 billion in large deals; company to make two small acquisitions, one in the U.S. and another in Australia

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys, India's second largest tech player, on Thursday reported an almost 12% year-on-year dip in fourth quarter net profit to ₹ 7,033 crore.

Revenue in Q4 rose almost 8% to ₹40,925 crore. For the full year ended March 31, it reported revenue of ₹1,62,990 crore, a 6.1% growth. FY25 saw a marginal increase of 1.8% in profit to ₹26,713 crore.

During FY25, the company won large deals worth $11.6 billion with the fourth quarter accounting for $2.6 billion.

Addressing the media, Salil Parekh, CEO and MD said, "Our performance for the year has been robust in terms of revenue, expansion in operating margins and highest ever free cash generation."

The firm delivered the highest-ever free cash flow at $4.1 billion, in FY25, said CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka.

Mr. Parekh said Infosys was seeing an uncertain market environment on macroeconomic challenges and the impact was in certain sectors, including consumer products.

Infosys pared down its revenue guidance for FY26 from 1-4% to 0-3% at constant currency terms and operating margin at 20-22%. It recommended ₹22 an equity share in final dividend for FY25.

Despite choppy market conditions, the firm said it would hire 20,000 freshers during FY26 against 15,000 in the previous fiscal. Infosys reported 14% attrition in Q4. Mr. Sanghrajka added wage hikes were on track.

ESOPs to Parekh

Infosys said it vested employee stock options (ESOPs) valued at about ₹50 crore to Mr. Parekh during FY25.

Infosys said it has decided to make two small acquisitions, one in the U.S. and another in Australia, as per a regulatory filing.

IT's tough out there

While Infosys' FY25 performance has been robust, the firm is treading with caution amid global uncertainties

- Infosys' revenue rose 6% to ₹1.63 lakh crore and net by 2% to ₹26,713 cr. in FY25
- The firm delivered the highest-ever free cash flow at $4.1 billion in FY25
- Gives FY26 revenue guidance at 0-3% in constant currency terms
- Set to hire 20,000 freshers in FY26

Securities market to see a shift on AI, says SEBI chief

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Considering the rapid progress being made in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing, securities market would undergo a change, said Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

"We have to prepare for the opportunity these technologies offer as well as the risks that may arise. Market Infrastructure Institutions must ensure that investor protection stays the topmost priority."

'Intensification of tariff wars, rise of protectionism can shake up global supply chains'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The intensification of tariff wars and the rise of protectionist policies have the potential to disrupt global supply chains, increase production costs and create uncertainty in investment decisions across borders as well, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday.

"This has had a ripple effect on the financial markets across the globe including our own market," she said while speaking at a function organised by the BSE to celebrate its 150 years of existence.

Nirmala Sitharaman

"We recognise that the global landscape is changing and changing rapidly and the world is going through a phase of trade calibrations. The recalibration efforts on trade are very, very challenging. It is not worrisome, but it is also going to be very challenging," she emphasised.

Talking about VUCA she said, "It is a VUCA world. It is full of volatility, uncertainty, complex and ambiguous paradigms, which are shifting every day.

"One thing stands firm, the strength of the Indian economic fundamentals and the macroeconomic prudence with which the economy has been managed," she added

Gensol Engineering independent director quits

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Gensol Engineering's independent director Arun Menon has resigned saying there was growing concern on leveraging its balance sheet to fund capex of other businesses and sustainability of servicing such high debt costs by the company.

His resignation came a day after SEBI barred Gensol Engineering and its promoters – Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi – from the securities markets till further orders in a fund diversion and governance lapses case.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	78,553	1.96
US Dollar	85.38	0.30
Gold	98,170	0.07
Brent oil	68.04	3.38

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2418.10	2.50
Adani Ports	1259.40	26.50
Apollo Hosp	7073.50	68.00
Asian Paints	2467.90	8.00
Axis Bank	1190.80	29.50
Bajaj Auto	8018.00	56.50
Bajaj Finserv	2035.30	66.10
Bajaj Finance	9162.50	106.00
Bharat Elec	295.15	1.55
Bharti Airtel	1889.10	66.50
Cipla	1515.20	18.80
Coal India	398.85	-0.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1163.60	5.20
Eicher Motors	5678.50	63.00
Eternal Ltd.	231.60	9.52
Grasim Ind	2760.70	57.90
HCL Tech	1438.00	6.30
HDFC Bank	1906.70	28.70
HDFC Life	720.05	4.00
Hero MotoCorp	3771.80	-10.10
Hindalco	609.50	-0.40
Hind Unilever	2375.00	8.40
ICICI Bank	1406.70	50.30
IndusInd Bank	794.70	6.45
Infosys	1419.50	6.40
ITC	427.25	2.80
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	246.47	4.19
JSW Steel	1007.20	-2.20
Kotak Bank	2188.10	64.70
L&T	3247.30	19.60
M&M	2679.40	44.80
Maruti Suzuki	11695.00	31.00
NestleIndia	2416.60	33.30
NTPC	364.00	4.70
ONGC	243.49	2.27
PowerGrid Corp	309.00	3.25
Reliance Ind	1274.50	35.20
SBI Life	1608.20	42.80
State Bank	797.45	25.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	691.75	15.70
Sun Pharma	1751.50	58.40
TataConsumerProduct	1120.20	14.30
Tata Motors	621.55	5.50
Tata Steel	137.14	0.17
TCS	3298.90	25.10
Tech Mahindra	1306.80	-1.90
Titan	3327.50	55.40
Trent Ltd.	5130.50	95.00
UltraTech Cement	11901.00	173.00
Wipro	236.90	-10.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.17	85.49
Euro	96.82	97.18
British Pound	112.70	113.13
Japanese Yen (100)	59.71	59.94
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.72
Swiss Franc	104.24	104.64
Singapore Dollar	64.88	65.14
Canadian Dollar	61.29	61.52
Malaysian Ringitt	19.31	19.41
Australian Dollar	54.11	54.31

Source:Indian Bank

India's airport expansion plans require revised seat pacts: Dubai Airport CEO

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The development of airport infrastructure in India and fulfilling the country's ambitions to grow them into hubs that can transfer passengers from different connecting points must be supported by a revision in seat capacities permitted between two countries, said Dubai Airport CEO Paul Griffiths.

"The development of airport infrastructure in India is obviously going to be welcomed because there will be many more points where it will be possible to have direct service to the UAE, particularly to Dubai. Of course, the bilaterals will need some revisions to be able to make the points possible," he told *The Hindu* on the side lines of a Airports Council International event.

He was addressing a question on the Centre's efforts to develop Indian airports as hubs to reduce traffic leakage to major international airports.

The Centre plans to take up 50 airport development projects in the next five years. These include new airports, as well as expansion of existing ones.

Small is good: Evolution of aircraft technology allows smaller planes to connect remote airports cost-effectively, says Griffiths. AP

Indian government plans to take up 50 airport development projects in the next five years

Additional seats

The UAE has been pushing for an additional 50,000 weekly seats for Dubai in the bilateral air service agreement. It currently allows 66,000 seats a week between the UAE and India, a quota fully utilised by airlines of both sides. The proposal includes a 4:1 seat allocation formula, allowing Indian carriers to operate four additional seats for every extra seat granted to UAE airlines. This ratio would gradually shift to 3:1, 2:1, and eventually 1:1 over a specified period, phasing in the changes systematically.

Smaller aircraft

Mr. Griffith is also of the opinion that the world is moving away from a hub approach for developing airports as the evolution of aircraft technology allows smaller aircraft to connect remote airports in a cost-effective manner.

This, he said, will mean that in the years to come the number of aircraft with very large capacities will be fewer compared with the number of smaller aircraft capable of flying long distances.

The UAE's second airport - Dubai World Central (DWC), or Al Maktoum International Airport, will replace Dubai International Airport (DXB) as its main hub by the mid-2030s. A $35 billion expansion, approved in April 2024, targets 260 million passengers annually by 2050 with five runways, 400 gates, and eight concourses. When it opens after phase one of expansion in 2027, it will have three runways, nearly 120 gates, and a 150 million passenger capacity.

Theme-based terminals

Mr. Griffiths said DWC could have different terminals based on country themes such as an India or America. This would entail one terminal for airlines with same destinations.

So an Indian theme terminal "would not mean only Indian airlines, but it will cluster flights [of different airlines] in the most effective ways, so the tracks are optimised, as we would want to minimise walking distances." Similarly, there could be Europe and Australasia terminals.

In 2024, Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest travel hub, logged 92 million passengers of which 12 million travelled to India. 55% of airport users visited Dubai as a final destination while 45% used it as a connecting hub.

Nifty weekly returns rises to a four-year high of 4.5%

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Benchmark Nifty 50 was up 4.5% in the week ended Thursday, posting its best returns in over four years. The positive return comes after two consecutive weeks of market dip.

The index closed at 23,851.65 points up 1.77% on Thursday from the previous day's close, continuing its fourth consecutive day of positive return.

The increase can be largely attributable to uptrend in banking indices.

Nifty private bank index was up 2.23%, Nifty Financial Services rose 2.05% and Nifty PSU Bank index climbed 1.64%.

The upward trend comes on the back of banks trimming lending rates in response to the repo rate cut from the RBI.

A five-year low inflation number and an expectation of above normal monsoon may have added to the optimism in the market. Throughout the week, markets also responded positively to U.S. President Trump's decision to exempt tariffs on smartphones and the likelihood of an exemption on automobiles.

"The Nifty recorded its fourth consecutive day of gains, surging a significant 414 points (1.77%) to close at 23,851, its highest level since January 3. This marked an impressive rally of over 500 points from the morning low of 23,298. Over the past seven trading sessions, the Nifty has witnessed a substantial rally exceeding 2,000 points, propelling the index above its previous swing high of 23,869," said Nandish Shah, deputy vice-president, HDFC Securities.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
No: KPCL/2025-26/IND 1601 Dated: 07.04.2025
ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)
Sealed bids are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **" Procurement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for KPCL and KPCGPCL Projects"**. Further details can be had from **The Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs)**, KPCL, No.3, 2nd Floor, Green Building, (Drugs Control Department Premises), Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Mobile: 94484 36926.

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic Commercial Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
No.: BMTC/CO/TR/COM/1713/238/2025-26 Date: 17.04.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 03/2025-26 (e-Procurement Platform)
Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites bids from the interested Persons/Agency/Company on monthly license fee basis for **running General Stalls, Refreshment Room and Commercial-Office Spaces** through e-procurement platform.

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**22.04.2025 at 11:30 hrs.**	**Place**: Chief Traffic Manager(Com) Chamber, 2nth Floor, Central Office, BMTC, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru.

Last date for submission of bids: **17.05.2025 up to 17:00hrs.**
Date of opening Technical bids: **19.05.2025 at 11.30 hrs.**
For further details on license fees, EMD, Area & other conditions log on to: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact no: 080-46010000, 23010901, 22371090, 22340060, 22340948 or 7760997519 & 7760991222, E-mail:**ctmc@mybmtc.com.**
Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001,)
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website: www.pspcl.in, Contact No. 96461-12344
E-Tender Enquiry No.: 01/SE/MHP/P-428 Dtd. 17/04/2025
SE/O&M Circle, MHP, Talwara invites e-tenders for **outsourcing the work of Routine & Preventive Maintenance, Breakdown Maintenance and Annual Overhauling of Generating Units, Switchyards and other allied equipment through contractor at Power House No.: 1 to 4 of Mukerian Hydel Project Stage - I, PSPCL, Talwara(Pb.)**
Last date for downloading tende documents: **12/05/2025 upto 10:00 Hrs.**
Last Date for Bid Submission: **22/05/2025 upto 15:00 Hrs.**
Interested bidders may visit PSPCL e-procurement website for details: **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.** In case tender process is not completed due to any reason(s), no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on e-tendering website only.
C 295/25 **76155/12/4163/2023/43652**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Scope of Work	Due date
252613 000466	Procurement of Debarked Eucalyptus Grandis pulpwood from open market sources of Kerala to TNPL Unit-I at Kagithapuram.	03.05.2025
252613 000467	Procurement of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market sources of Karnataka to TNPL Unit-I at Kagithapuram.	05.05.2025
252623 000155	Procurement of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market sources of Karnataka to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	06.05.2025
Email	purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL website only. Detailed terms & conditions, etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website : **www.tnpl.com**
DIPR/1599/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail :md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	TENDER ID	ITEMS
1	2025_KMML_760094_1	For the Transportation of Aluminium Trihydrate-1104 MT

Chavara 17.04.2025 **Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867
E-mail ID:- cgmupcl@yahoo.com, Website:www.upcl.org, Telephone No. 0135-2762444 , Fax-0135-2763839
Websites:(www.mstcecommerce.com)
CORRIGENDUM FOR PURCHASE OF POWER UNDER LONG TERM PROCUREMENT AGAINST TENDER SPECIFICATION No. 21/CE(COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025
The amended tender process and activities timeline modifications against tender specification No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/ LTPP/ 2025 are as under:-

S. No.	Event	Date & Time
1.	Utility response to queries latest by	22-04-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
2.	Application due date	07-05-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
3.	Announcement of Pre-qualified Applications	28-05-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
4.	Letter of Award (LOA)	Within 30 days of Bid due date
5.	Validity of Bids	120 days from Bid Due Date
6.	Signing of PSA-DBFOO	Within 30 days of issue of LOA

Hard Copy of B.G/proof of EMD should reach in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL on or before the due date of application.
All other terms and conditions shall remain as per tender specification No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025.
No.:-199/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date:- 16.04.2025 SE(COMMERCIAL)
SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. Use LED Bulb, Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org". (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll free No 18001804185/ Fax No 0135-2760911)

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 000010	300 GSM Circular Grey Board Disc - 93/95 CM & 97 CM for Unit - I & II.	02.05.2025
252613 000431	Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit - I & II.	02.05.2025
252613 000448	Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye for Unit - I & II.	02.05.2025
252623 000101	For Supply of SS Pipe fittings for Tissue Machine #5 at TNPL Unit-II.	09.05.2025
252623 000102	For Supply of Agitators for Tissue Machine #5 at TNPL Unit-II.	09.05.2025
252623 000118	For Supply of Centrifugal Pumps for Tissue Paper Machine (TM#5) at TNPL Unit-II.	09.05.2025
252623 000074	Design, Fabrication and Supply of 10 TPH Oscillating Wood Chips Screen for TNPL Unit-II.	02.05.2025
252623 000120	Procurement of CATIONIC ROSIN for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	02.05.2025
252623 000121	Procurement of Liquid Non Ferric Alum for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	05.05.2025
252623 000122	Procurement of Surface Sizing Agent for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II.	05.05.2025
Email	252613000010 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 252613000431 ; 0448 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 252623000101 ; 0102 ; 0118 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in 252623000074 - purchaseengg.u2@tnpl.co.in 252623000120 ; 0121 ; 0122 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1569/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

WASHINGTON

Trump blocked Israeli plan to strike Iran nuclear sites: report

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump blocked an Israeli plan to strike Iranian nuclear sites, opting instead for direct talks with Tehran, the *New York Times* reported on Wednesday. U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi are due to meet in Rome on Saturday, a week after the first meeting in Oman. AFP

YANGON

Residents say Myanmar towns hit by fighting despite quake truce

AP

Despite a post-earthquake truce, fighting continues around Myanmar's Kyondoe and Kawkareik, key towns on the trade route to Thailand. Residents report air strikes and artillery, mass displacement, and fear, while ceasefire violations stall relief and disrupt vital commerce and aid efforts. AFP

WASHINGTON

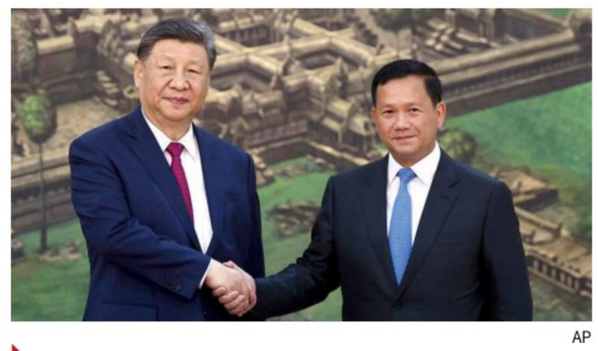
Musk's SpaceX is frontrunner to build Trump's missile shield

REUTERS

Elon Musk's SpaceX, with software maker Palantir and drone builder Anduril, leads the bid for President Donald Trump's "Golden Dome" missile defence shield, proposing to deploy 400-1,000 satellites to detect missiles. Their plan uses a subscription model, drawing significant interest from defence startups. REUTERS

PHNOM PENH

Xi, seeking to build regional ties, meets Cambodian PM Hun Manet



AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping met the Cambodian premier Hun Manet in Phnom Penh on Thursday on the final leg of a Southeast Asia tour in which he sought to strengthen regional trade ties. The visit comes amid escalating U.S. tariffs, with China reaffirming support for Cambodia's development. AFP

Fed Chair Powell's termination 'cannot come fast enough': Trump

Powell 'should have lowered interest rates long ago, but he should certainly lower them now', says the President; the Fed chief had earlier said the institution won't be influenced by political pressure and that 'our independence is a matter of law'

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump slammed Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Thursday, reiterating his frustration that the Fed has not aggressively cut interest rates and saying that the central bank leader's "termination cannot come fast enough".

Mr. Trump hinted at moving to fire Mr. Powell, whose term does not expire until next year. The Republican President's broadside comes a day after Mr. Powell signalled that the Fed will keep its key interest rate unchanged while it seeks "greater clarity" on the impact of policy changes in areas such as immigration, taxation, regulation and tariffs.

Political pressure: U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaks at the Economic Club of Chicago on Wednesday. AFP

Mr. Powell's comments contributed to a drop in stock prices on Wednesday.

"Oil prices are down, groceries (even eggs!) are down, and the USA is getting RICH ON TARIFFS," Mr. Trump said in a social media post.

Referring to the European Central Bank, he added that Mr. Powell "should have lowered Interest Rates, like the ECB, long ago, but he should certainly lower them now. Powell's termination cannot come fast enough!"

The European Central Bank on Thursday lowered its key interest rate from 2.5% to 2.25%.

Mr. Powell was initially nominated by Mr. Trump in 2017, and he was appointed to another four-year term by President Joe Biden in 2022. At a November news conference, Mr. Powell indicated he would not step down if Mr. Trump asked him to resign. He has also said that the removal or demotion of top Fed officials was "not permitted under the law."

Mr. Trump's comments come with the backdrop of a legal case headed to the Supreme Court that could determine whether presidents can fire the heads of independent agencies such as the Fed.

Mr. Powell, in his remarks at the Economic Club of Chicago on Wednesday, said the Fed will base its decisions solely on what is best for all Americans.

"We're never going to be influenced by any political pressure. Our independence is a matter of law."

IMF calls on countries to find a settlement on trade

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

On the eve of its Spring Meetings, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) called on countries to find a settlement on trade issues, which it said was the top priority for a multipolar world. The IMF's new growth projections, which will be released on Tuesday, would forecast "notable markdowns" in growth and inflation mark-ups for some countries, but they would not forecast a recession, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday, days ahead of the World Bank and IMF's first gathering since President Donald Trump returned to the White House and announced global tariffs on goods entering the U.S.

"In trade policy, the goal must be to secure a settlement among the largest players that preserves openness and delivers a more level playing field," Ms. Georgieva said at a curtain-raiser event, where she called for restarting a global trend of lower tariff rates while reducing non-tariff barriers to trade.

During a question answer session following her remarks, Ms. Georgieva praised parts of Mr Trump's agenda and outlined silver linings to the gathering clouds of trade disruptions.

The IMF chief said Mr. Trump's plan for deregulation would be "valuable" for the U.S. and create a "fertile environment" for businesses to succeed.

Bilateral trade negotiations that could follow the current uncertainty might result in countries that did not normally trade with each other to engage in trade, Ms. Georgieva said.

Kristalina Georgieva

In some instances, tariff barriers could actually go down, she said, citing India as a potential example.

Mr. Trump has taken on those who have criticised him personally or have attacked his policies and he has withdrawn the U.S. from a number of multilateral bodies and agreements that he believes treat America unfairly. In her remarks, Ms. Georgieva appeared to be making a case for why the IMF was helpful to the U.S.

"We don't ask taxpayers for money," she said, adding, "We operate like a savings account."

"The United States in the last two years got $3.1 billion in interest payments for the money we lend," she said.

Growth path

Discussing where growth was expected in the context of a global slowdown, Ms. Georgieva identified Argentina, which has come out of a recession, India and Ukraine.

"India ... very interesting in the context of the discussion we have around trade, a country that for quite some time was uneasy with reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers. India is now doing it," she said, adding that this, along with increasing digitization was creating the conditions for private sector investment and removing "self- inflicted injuries to growth".

During her remarks, Ms. Georgieva said financial market volatility had increased and trade policy uncertainty was "literally off the charts", as she pointed to a graph on a screen behind her.

"Uncertainty is costly," she said, adding, that rising trade barriers would hit economic growth, with protectionism eroding productivity over the long term, especially for smaller countries.

Countries must work extra hard to "put their own houses in order", which for most countries would mean taking fiscal action to rebuild policy space, according to Ms. Georgieva.

In her remarks, the IMF chief encouraged emerging market economies to preserve exchange rate flexibility as a shock absorber. A depreciated dollar and rising U.S. Treasury yields should be seen as a warning, she said.

Without referring to any country by name, Ms. Georgieva said many blame the international economic system "for the perceived unfairness in their lives" and that tariff and non-tariff barriers had fed negative perceptions of the multilateral system.

She warned that although imports were a small proportion of GDP for the world's three largest economies, the U.S., China and the E.U. , these were the world's largest importers and their actions mattered, leaving smaller economies caught in the crosscurrents.

Russia scraps Taliban's 'terror' label as ties warm

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia's Supreme Court on Thursday removed the Taliban's designation as a "terrorist organisation", a symbolic gesture aimed at building friendly ties with Afghanistan's de facto rulers.

Moscow has taken steps to normalise relations with the Taliban authorities since 2021, seeing them as a potential economic partner and ally in fighting terrorism.

Scientists using James Webb telescope find 'strongest sign of life' on alien planet

Reuters
WASHINGTON

In a potential landmark discovery, scientists using the James Webb Space Telescope have obtained what they call the strongest signs yet of possible life beyond our solar system, detecting in an alien planet's atmosphere the chemical fingerprints of gases that on Earth are produced only by biological processes.

The two gases – dimethyl sulfide, or DMS, and dimethyl disulfide, or DMDS – involved in Webb's observations of the planet named K2-18 b are generated on Earth by living organisms, primarily microbial life such as marine phytoplankton – algae.

This suggests the planet may be teeming with microbial life, the researchers said. They stressed, however, that they are not announcing the discovery of actual living organisms but rather a possible biosignature – an indicator of a biological process – and the findings should be viewed cautiously, with more observations needed.

K2-18 b is 8.6 times as massive as Earth a. REUTERS

Nonetheless, they voiced excitement. These are the first hints of an alien world that is possibly inhabited, said astrophysicist Nikku Madhusudhan of the University of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy, lead author of the study published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

"This is a transformational moment in the search for life beyond the solar system, where we have demonstrated that it is possible to detect biosignatures in potentially habitable planets with current facilities. We have entered the era of observational astrobiology," Mr. Madhusudhan said.

K2-18 b is 8.6 times as massive as Earth and has a diameter about 2.6 times as large as our planet.

Sport

Suruchi-Saurabh pair shoots gold

Sports Bureau

Suruchi Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary beat qualification toppers Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai (585) of China 17-9 to clinch the mixed air pistol gold in the World Cup in Lima, Peru, on Wednesday.

The Indian pair, which had shot 580 in qualification, made it to the gold match after being tied on the same score with the other Chinese team, by virtue of its better score of inner 10s – 20x to 17x.

The second Indian team of Manu Bhaker and Ravinder Singh was beaten to the bronze by the Chinese 17-6.

While it was the third gold for the 18-year-old Suruchi in World Cups, after her individual gold in both Buenos Aires and Lima, it was the ninth career gold in World Cups for the 22-year-old Saurabh, an Olympic finalist, and a champion at the Asian Games, Youth Olympics and World juniors.

Bang on target: Suruchi and Saurabh celebrate their success. ISSF

In women's skeet, Olympian Raiza Dhillon made the final but finished fifth. Raiza won the shoot-off 2-1 against Zoya Kravchenko of Kazakhstan for the last spot in the final, after having tied on 117.

In men's skeet, Asian Games silver medallist, Anantjeet Singh Naruka shot 120 and missed the final by one point.

By dominating the skeet events, winning five of the six medals, USA jumped to the top of the medals table with two gold, two silver and a bronze. India was second with two gold, a silver and a bronze, while China followed with one gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

The results:

10m air pistol: Mixed team: 1. India (Suruchi Singh, Saurabh Chaudhary) 17 (580); 2. China-2 (Yao Qianxun, Hu Kai) 9 (585); 3. China (Ma Qianke, Zhang Yifan) 17 (580); 4. India-2 (Manu Bhaker, Ravinder Singh) 6 (579).
Skeet: Men: 1. Dustan Taylor (USA) 56 (121); 2. Christian Elliott (USA) 55 (123); 3. Han Xu (Chn) 46 (121); 10. Anantjeet Singh Naruka 120; 19. Bhavtegh Singh Gill 118; 34. Gurjoat Khangura 112.
Women: 1. Kimberly Rhode (USA) 56(2) 120; 2. Samantha Simonton (USA) 56(1) 121; 3. Dania Jo Vizzi (USA) 42 (123); 5. Raiza Dhillon 26 (117); 9. Ganemat Sekhon 116; 16. Darshna Rathore 110.

Madhya Pradesh walking with athletes on the journey from local to global: CM Mohan Yadav

Sports Bureau

Madhya Pradesh was named 'Best State for Promotion of Sports' at the *Sportstar* Aces Awards 2025, recognising its strides in grassroots development, athlete welfare, and infrastructure.

With a sports budget of ₹586 crore in 2024, the State celebrated three Paris Olympics medallists and four National champions.

Major investments included ₹10 crore for the SAI Central Regional Centre in Bhopal and ₹7.5 crore for a multipurpose hall in Jabalpur.

"We are redefining the country's sporting landscape through focused policy, grassroots initiatives, and world-class facilities," said Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. MP's State Sports Academy System has 11 academies for 18 disciplines, supporting over 1,300 athletes.

Reward for excellence: Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav receives the *Sportstar* Aces award 2025 from V.V. Rajasekhara Rao, Convergence Editor, *Sportstar*, in the presence of *The Hindu* Group's Satish Keshav Mendon, Sauvik Acharya, Mehul Malpani and Dr. Sudam Khade, Commissioner, Public Relations, Govt. of MP.

The Khelo MP Youth Games and feeder centres across sports, including 26 for hockey, form the backbone of its talent pipeline.

To address financial insecurity, the State offers scholarships, performance-based incentives, insurance, and government jobs. "We are also making a policy to appoint international medallists to gazetted posts," Yadav added.

Inclusivity is a core focus, with special camps and travel aid for marginalised communities. The Khelo Bado Abhiyan, Fit India clubs, and PARTH Yojana aim to increase youth participation, particularly in rural and tribal areas.

"Our holistic athlete development model – from scouting to mental health support – shows that MP is nurturing medal-ready talent," said Yadav. Para-athletes like Rubina Francis and Prachi Yadav, all Arjuna Awardees, underline the success of this model.

"MP is walking with athletes on the journey from local to global," he said.

TIMELY TIP

Starc reminded me that we must use saliva, reveals Bhuvneshwar

K. MURALI KUMAR

I was not initially not using saliva, because I had completely forgotten that we are allowed to use saliva now. It was Mitchell Starc who reminded me that we must use saliva. We will definitely use saliva in matches, and see if it helps or not — RCB pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

TRULY SPECIAL

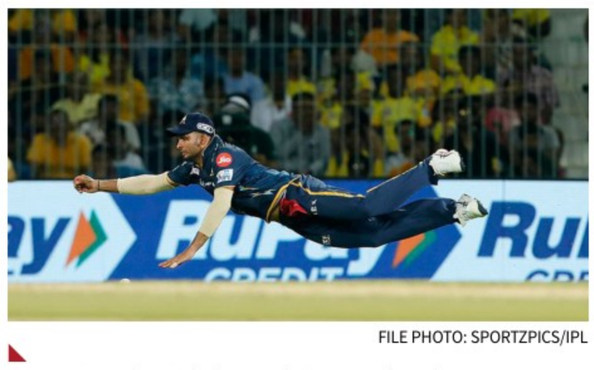
'Victory over KKR gives the belief that we can win from any situation'

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

That was (win over KKR) special. The way we got ourselves back into the game gives the team the belief that we can win from any situation. The feeling that they are never out the game, this is very important as we go deep into the season — PBKS assistant coach Brad Haddin on his side's 16-run victory while defending 111.

HOMECOMING

Titans include Shanaka as the replacement for injured Phillips



FILE PHOTO: SPORTZPICS/IPL

Gujarat Titans has picked Sri Lanka's Dasun Shanaka as a replacement for the injured Glenn Phillips for the remainder of IPL 2025. Shanaka, an all-rounder, has scored 1,456 runs in 102 T20Is for Sri Lanka along with 33 T20I wickets to his name. He was previously part of GT in 2023, and rejoins the franchise for ₹75 lakh.

LEVEL 1 OFFENCE

DC bowling coach Munaf fined 25% for IPL Code of Conduct breach

SPORTZPICS/IPL

Delhi Capitals bowling coach Munaf Patel was fined 25% of his match fee and accumulated one demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the game against Rajasthan Royals in New Delhi on Wednesday. He "admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 of the IPL Code of Conduct," said an IPL statement.

Jacks' all-round show helps MI get the better of SRH

The home team continues resurgence with a second successive win; the Hyderabad batters fail to get going on a tacky strip

IPL-18

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Will Jacks displayed his mastery. And the pacers effectively used a tacky pitch up front by taking pace off the ball consistently.

It culminated in Mumbai Indians registering a facile four-wicket win against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL.

Riding on Jacks' all-round show, the home team trounced the visiting side with 11 balls to spare to start off a long weekend for Mumbaikars on a happy note at the Wankhede Stadium.

Jacks was obviously the star of the night. Having struggled to leave his footprint in MI's blues thus far, the Englishman came good in both the departments to set up the victory.

Even before captain Hardik Pandya introduced Jacks into the attack right after the PowerPlay, Karn Sharma had headed back into the dressing room after injuring his hand while lunging forward to catch a drive off Abhishek Sharma's blade.

Karn's loss could well have tilted the tide in Sunrisers' favour, especially with Jasprit Bumrah having bowled two overs in the PowerPlay.

Even though Abhishek and Travis Head were subdued – having put together their slowest PowerPlay score (46) as a pair – they were not going to waste any time in going after Jacks.

In his element: Jacks produced a 26-ball 36 after taking two wickets with his off-spin. EMMANUAL YOGINI

But Jacks started off with a seven-run over. In his next, with Abhishek having succumbed to Hardik in the eighth, Jacks drew Ishan Kishan forward, spun the ball and Ryan Rickelton whipped the bails off in no time.

Jacks then struck the decisive blow that ensured MI didn't have to chase down a big total by forcing Head to hole out to long-off.

Had it not been for Aniket Verma's blitz at the death, Sunrisers would have struggled to cross the 160-run mark.

Rohit's cameo

Impact Player Rohit Sharma produced a cameo and the MI middle-order ensured it didn't lose the plot thereafter.

Jacks came good with the willow. Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik continued to accelerate with a combination of innovative stroke-play and power-hitting before Tilak Varma sealed the deal with a reverse-sweep off leggie Zeeshan Ansari.

Next assignment

MI: April 20 vs CSK
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

SRH: April 23 vs MI
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Abhishek Sharma c sub (Bawa) b Hardik 40 *(28b, 7x4)*, Travis Head c Santner b Jacks 28 *(29b, 3x4)*, Ishan Kishan st. Rickelton b Jacks 2 *(3b)*, Nitish Kumar c Tilak b Boult 19 *(21b, 1x4)*, Heinrich Klaasen b Bumrah 37 *(28b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Aniket Verma (not out) 18 *(8b, 2x6)*, Pat Cummins (not out) 8 *(4b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, nb-1, w-8): 10; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-59 (Abhishek, 7.3 overs), 2-68 (Kishan, 8.4), 3-82 (Head, 11.1), 4-113 (Nitish, 16.4), 5-136 (Klaasen, 18.1).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Chahar 4-0-47-0, Boult 4-0-29-1, Bumrah 4-0-21-1, Jacks 3-0-14-2, Hardik 4-0-42-1, Santner 1-0-8-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Ryan Rickelton c Head b Harshal 31 *(23b, 5x4)*, Rohit Sharma **(Impact Player for Karn)** c Head b Cummins 26 *(16b, 3x6)*, Will Jacks c Zeeshan b Cummins 36 *(26b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Zeeshan b Cummins 26 *(15b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma (not out) 21 *(17b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Kishan b Malinga 21 *(9b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Naman Dhir lbw b Malinga 0 *(3b)*, Mitchell Santner (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-3): 5; Total (for six wkts. in 18.1 overs): 166.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-32 (Rohit, 3.5), 2-69 (Rickelton, 7.5), 3-121 (Suryakumar, 12.4), 4-128 (Jacks, 14.3), 5-162 (Hardik, 17.2), 6-162 (Naman, 17.5).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Shami 3-0-28-0, Cummins 4-0-26-3, Malinga 4-0-36-2, Zeeshan 3.1-0-35-0, Harshal 3-0-31-1, Rahul Chahar **(Impact Player for Shami)** 1-0-9-0.

Toss: MI.

PoM: Jacks.

MI won by four wickets with 11 balls to spare.

Focus on pitch as RCB gears up for the PBKS challenge

Big guns: RCB skipper Patidar has been in fine form while PBKS spin ace Chahal has found his mojo again. K. MURALI KUMAR

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Yet to record a win in these parts, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will feel that the comfort of home advantage has been missing in this season of the IPL. In the two games played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here, bowlers have had the upper hand, in contrast to the batting-friendly conditions seen at this venue in seasons past.

All eyes will be on the pitch on Friday, when RCB takes on Punjab Kings.

With the surface easing up considerably as the night wears on, the toss has become a crucial factor.

RCB captain Rajat Patidar, who has lost the toss in both outings here, will hope that he can call it right and bowl first.

RCB's Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who forms an incisive pace duo alongside Josh Hazlewood, agreed that posting mammoth scores here is a thing of the past.

"The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium is known for being batting friendly, but this pitch is not what it used to be," Bhuvneshwar said here on Thursday.

RCB enjoyed a successful chase in the previous outing, when the top-order of Phil Salt, Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal crushed Rajasthan Royals. Salt, explosive in the PowerPlay, is slowly starting to find form.

PBKS, meanwhile, is coming off a thrilling victory over Kolkata Knight Riders. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who had a long tenure at RCB, struck gold with a four-wicket haul against KKR.

Like K.L. Rahul did last week, could Chahal put one over his former teammates?

Today's match

RCB vs. PBKS
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 33
RCB 16 | PBKS 17

PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by 60 runs, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Starc produces an absolute masterclass in death bowling

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

When Mitchell Starc was at the top of his mark for the start of the 20th over of Rajasthan Royals' run chase on Wednesday, pretty much everyone in attendance at the Arun Jaitley Stadium had an inkling of the left-arm pacer's game plan for the next six balls. That the Aussie would look to spear the ball into the blockhole, and try to deny Dhruv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer the chance to get under one and connect.

Big weapon: Starc is second to none when it comes to nailing yorkers in the slog overs. R.V. MOORTHY

Practical lesson

Having the right thought process is just one part, though. For Starc to actually go ahead and execute his plan to near-perfection ball after ball is to deliver a masterclass in T20 death bowling.

The spearhead conceded just eight runs in the last over and took the contest to a Super Over, also bowled by him, that Delhi Capitals won.

It was an emphatic assertion of why he is, along with Jasprit Bumrah, among the very best in the modern game when it comes to nailing yorkers in the slog overs.

"I've played long enough that everyone pretty much knows what I'm going to do. If I can execute more often than not, it's going to be okay," Starc said.

A teaser of what was to come from the left-armer was on view in the 18th over.

Against Nitish Rana, batting on 51, Starc went full and got the ball to tail in sharply, hitting the southpaw flush on his front toe for a leg-before dismissal.

"The reverse swing that we saw from Starc, obviously credit goes to him. But the saliva has made a lot of difference.

In the last two-three years, reverse swing had gone out of the game. We haven't been used to facing this even in the nets recently. But Starc was able to execute yorkers at 145kph," said Rana.

The reverse-swing factor is certainly bringing greater balance to the contest between bat and ball in this IPL.

Enjoyable

"It is enjoyable to watch and there is competitive cricket being played. Getting reverse swing is one thing, but Starc was executing it under pressure," DC skipper Axar Patel noted.

BCCI parts ways with Nayar, Dilip; reshuffle of support staff on cards

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The BCCI has finalised a major reshuffle in India's men's team's support staff ahead of the new cycle beginning with the five-Test series in England from June.

Fresh faces

Besides parting ways with two of the six coaching staff – assistant coach Abhishek Nayar and fielding coach T. Dilip – the BCCI is also set to bring in fresh faces in the support staff.

The reshuffle is based on the feedback by the team management after a mixed bag of results in Gautam Gambhir's early tenure as the India head coach.

Despite suffering consecutive Test series losses – against New Zealand in India and in Australia – last year, India's ODI team salvaged pride by reclaiming the Champions Trophy last month.

Out of sync? Nayar has been removed as the Indian team's assistant coach. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

"There are a few changes in the team's coaching staff and support staff. It will be officially announced soon," a BCCI official said, preferring anonymity, while confirming that coaching staff is being trimmed.

The fact that a sword was hanging over Nayar's head was evident with Sitanshu Kotak's induction as batting coach immediately after the tour to Australia.

Dilip, the only surviving member of the previous coaching dispensation headed by Rahul Dravid, has been relieved to ensure specific role allotments to the new members.

For the tour of England, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate is set to be handed charge of the fielding department. Morne Morkel will continue to be the bowling coach.

Revamp imminent

With Nitin Patel, the chief of the medical wing at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, deciding to part ways with the BCCI, the team's support staff is also set for a revamp.

Adrian Le Roux is set to replace strength and conditioning coach Soham Desai, while a new recovery specialist (masseur) is set to be appointed in place of Arun Kanade.

INBRIEF

Newcastle thrashes Palace to go third in Premier League

Newcastle soared up to third in the Premier League with a 5-0 thrashing of Crystal Palace on Wednesday to close in on a return to the Champions League next season. Jacob Murphy, Harvey Barnes (*in pic*), Fabian Schar and Alexander Isak were on target for the Magpies, with Marc Guehi also scoring an own goal, as Newcastle made light of the absence of manager Eddie Howe due to pneumonia. A sixth consecutive victory in all competitions opens up a five-point lead for Newcastle over sixth-placed Chelsea, with a place in the top five good enough for Champions League qualification.

The result: Newcastle 5 (Murphy 14, Guehi 38-og, Barnes 45+2, Schar 45+8, Isak 58) bt Crystal Palace 0.

Pakistan qualifies for ICC Women's World Cup

Captain Fatima Sana's all-round show powered Pakistan past Thailand by 87 runs and took it to the ICC Women's World Cup on Thursday. Pakistan rode on fifties by Fatima and Sidra Amin to post 205 for six in 50 overs in the qualifier in Lahore. Fatima, Rameen Shamim and Nashra Sandhu claimed three apiece as Thailand folded for 118. The World Cup will be played in India in September-October. Pakistan will play at a neutral venue after a hybrid model was decided upon following India's refusal to play in Pakistan in the recent ICC Champions Trophy.

The scores: Pakistan 205/6 in 50 overs (Sidra 80, Fatima 62) bt Thailand 118 in 34.4 overs (Rameen 3/19, Fatima 3/39, Nashra 3/19). **PoM:** Fatima.

Van Dijk signs new two-year contract with Liverpool

Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk on Thursday committed his future to the Premier League club, signing a new two-year contract. "I'm very happy, very proud," said Van Dijk, 33. "There are so many emotions obviously that go through my head right now speaking about it. It's a proud feeling. It's just incredible. The journey I've had so far in my career, to be able to extend it with another two years at this club is amazing."

Nadal to be honoured with a tribute at French Open

Rafael Nadal, the retired 14-time champion, will receive a tribute at the French Open on Court Philippe-Chatrier on May 25, the tournament's opening day. "Rafa has left his mark on the history of the French Open in so many ways, that's why a tribute ceremony will be held in his honor," French Open director Amélie Mauresmo said on Thursday. "We want the tribute to be special, exceptional. We want it to be a surprise for everyone. We wanted to do the tribute last year, to be transparent, but he refused at the time," she added.

I would have got 20-year ban if caught like Sinner: Serena

Serena Williams said she would have been banned for 20 years and stripped of her Grand Slam titles had she failed drug tests like men's World No. 1 Jannik Sinner did last year. "He's great for the sport. I've been put down so much, I don't want to bring anyone down. Men's tennis needs him. (But) if I did that, I would have gotten 20 years. Let's be honest. I would have gotten Grand Slams taken away from me," said Serena

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Arsenal shows it belongs at the top table with emphatic win over Real

Snatches a 2-1 victory for a superb 5-1 aggregate result; Inter Milan sets a date with Barcelona in the semifinals with a pulsating last-eight triumph on aggregate score over Bayern Munich

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Arsenal staved off Champions League holder Real Madrid's superstars and rich history of unlikely comebacks to snatch a 2-1 victory on Wednesday and reach the semifinals with a superb 5-1 aggregate triumph.

The Gunners' 3-0 quarterfinal first leg triumph last week gave them a vital cushion in the Spanish capital as they made the final four for the first time since 2009, where they will face Paris Saint-Germain.

Bukayo Saka, who missed a first-half penalty, sent Arsenal ahead and although Vinicius Junior levelled the 15-time winner was never close to making up the deficit.

Gabriel Martinelli rubbed salt in its wounds with a stoppage-time winner for Arsenal, which has never lifted the Champions League trophy.

Inter Milan too reached the semifinals on Wednesday after drawing 2-2 with Bayern Munich to win a pulsating last-eight tie 4-3 on aggregate.

Italian champions Inter will face Barcelona in the semis after goals in the space of three minutes from captain Lautaro Martinez and Benjamin Pavard cancelled out a Harry Kane strike for Bayern which levelled the tie in the 52nd minute.

Eric Dier's looping header in the 75th minute earned Bayern a draw on the night in soaking and blustery Milan but that wasn't enough for Vincent Kompany's side to continue its bid to be crowned Kings of Europe for a seventh time.

Simone Inzaghi's side came through in awful conditions at the San Siro where a combination of heavy rain and driving winds affected both teams' ability to play their best football, but added uncertainty and tension to an already highly-charged occasion.

Coolly done: Arsenal's Saka has goalkeeper Courtois and Real on the mat with this dinked finish. AFP

The results (quarterfinals, second leg): Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 58, Pavard 61) drew with Bayern Munich 2 (Kane 52, Dier 76) (*Inter won 4-3 on aggregate*); Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius 67) lost to Arsenal 2 (Saka 65, Martinelli 90+3) (*Arsenal won 5-1 on aggregate*).

Neeraj begins season with 84.52m throw in S. Africa

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra started his season on a high by winning the Potch Invitational Track event in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Neeraj topped the six-man field, hurling the spear to a distance of 84.52m at the World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger event on Wednesday. The Indian star finished ahead of 25-year-old South African Douw Smit, whose best throw was 82.44m.

However, Neeraj's effort was below his personal best of 89.94m, while Douw came close to his personal best of 83.29m.

Neeraj and Smit were the only two to cross the 80m mark in the competition. Another South African, Duncan Robertson, finished third with an effort of 71.22m.

The Indian has been training in Potchefstroom under new coach Jan Zelezny of Czech Republic, a three-time Olympic champion and the world record holder.

Neeraj is scheduled to begin his elite-level campaign at the Doha Diamond League on May 16.

Winning start: Neeraj topped the six-man field of the WA Continental Tour Challenger event. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Sable will have to contend with a top-class field. FILE PHOTO

Sable to take part in Xiamen DL on April 26

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

National record-holder 3,000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable will feature in the season-opening Diamond League Meeting in Xiamen, China, on April 26, which will have a top-class field, including reigning Olympic and world champion Soufiane El Bakkali of Morocco. Abraham Kibiwot of Kenya, who had defeated Sable for gold in the 2022 Commonwealth Games, is also in the fray. Sable is competing for the first time since the Diamond League Final last September where he finished ninth with a time of 8m, 17.09s. The 30-year-old's national record stands at 8:09.91.

Bopanna and Shelton fail to clear the quarterfinal hurdle in Munich ATP event

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna and Ben Shelton lost 6-4, 7-5 to Sander Gille and Jan Zielinski in the doubles quarterfinals of the €2,500,000 ATP tournament in Munich on Thursday.

The results: €2,500,000 ATP, Munich: Doubles (quarterfinals): Sander Gille (Bel) & Jan Zielinski (Pol) bt Rohan Bopanna & Ben Shelton (USA) 6-4, 7-5.

$200,000 Challenger, Busan: Doubles (quarterfinals): Rio Noguchi & Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan & Aoran Wang (Chn) 6-3, 7-5.

€181,250 Challenger, Oeiras, Portugal: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Francisco Cabral (Por) & LLucas Miedler (Aut) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & David Hernandez (Esp) 6-3, 6-4.

$60,000 Challenger, Abidjan, Ivory Coast: Singles (first round): Florent Bax (Fra) bt Karan Singh 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Ricardas Berankis (Ltu) & Dominik Kellovsky (Cze) bt Aryan Shah & Parikshit Somani 6-4, 6-1.

Pre-quarterfinals: Aleksandre Bakshi (Geo) & Prajwal Dev bt Abdoulaziz Bationo (CIV) & Younes Laaroussi (Mar) 6-3, 6-4; Aryan & Parikshit bt Juan Bianchi & Brandon Perez (Ven) 2-6, 7-5, [10-8]; Myko Kouame (CIV) & Benoit Paire (Fra) bt Sai Karteek Reddy & Adil Kalyanpur 7-6(8), 3-6, [10-3].

$60,000 ITF women, Calvi, France: Singles (first round): Tessah Andrianjafitrimo (Fra) bt Riya Bhatia 7-5, 6-4.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Riya Bhatia & Sada Nahimana (Bdi) bt Hanna Bougouffa (Fra) & Yoana Moneva (Bul) 6-0, 6-1.

$15,000 ITF women, Antalya: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Isabella Serban (Ita) bt Vaishnavi Adkar 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Yuki Naito (Jpn) & Karolina Vlckova (Cze) bt Vaishnavi Adkar & Ilay Yoruk (Tur) 5-7, 6-3, [10-7].

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Singles (first round): Milana Zhabrailova bt Zeel Desai 6-3, 7-5.

Zhu beats Kashlinskaya, maintains the sole lead

Sports Bureau

China's Zhu Jiner maintained her sole lead at the end of the fourth round of the FIFE Women's Grand Prix Women's Chess in Pune on Thursday. The second seed defeated Alina Kashlinskaya of Poland to move to 3.5 points.

Top seed Koneru Humpy, who defeated Russian Polina Shuvalova, is in joint second place with three points, along with fellow-Indian Divya Deshmukh.

D. Harika and R. Vaishali played out a draw, the only one of the day.

The results (fourth round): Salome Melia (Geo) 1 lost to Divya Deshmukh 3; Polina Shuvalova (Rus) 2 lost to Koneru Humpy 3; D. Harika 2 drew with R. Vaishali 1.5; Mungtuul Batkhuyag (Mng) 2 lost to Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 1.5; Zhu Jiner (Chn) 3.5 bt Alina Kashlinskaya (Pol) 0.5.

Tanvi, Anahat advance to the quarterfinals

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

India's Tanvi Khanna upset top seed N. Ching Cheng of Hong Kong 11-7, 11-8, 8-11, 12-10 in the opening round and made the quarterfinals of the sqaush World Championship qualifying event (Asia) here on Thursday. Tanvi will take on Helen Tang of Hong Kong.

Anahat Singh put it across Jemyca Aribado of Philippines 11-4, 11-5, 11-7 and meets Japan's Akari Midorikawa.

Second-seeded Akanksha Salunkhe overcame Japan's Risa Sugimoto 11-4, 11-3, 11-8 to set up a quarterfinal clash against sixth seed Wai Yhann Au Yeong of Singapore. In men's section, Veer Chotrani defeated Malaysia's Ong Sai Hung 11-7, 11-8, 14-12 and will lock horns with another Malaysian Mohammad Syafiq Kamal in the last-eight.

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